

M E D I C A L
CONSULTATIONS

O N

VARIOUS DISEASES:

Published from the LETTERS

O F

THOMAS THOMPSON, M. D.

Physician to his late ROYAL HIGHNESS
FREDERIC Prince of Wales.



L O N D O N:

Printed for L. HAWES, W. CLARKE, and
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CONSULTATION

VARIOUS DIFFERENCES

Published from the Library



THOMAS H. BAKER, M.D.
F.R.S.E., F.R.S., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.O.
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P R E F A C E.



THE greatest part of the letters in this volume were addressed to the Editor, who being acquainted with several of his learned friend's correspondents, procured from them copies of the other consultations here published; to all which, as far as his information could extend, he has annexed the issue of the method of cure, which, he doubts not, will be acknowledged, by the intelligent of the profession, to have been conducted upon

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the most rational principles, and with a remarkable simplicity of prescription.

These consultations contain almost a complete body of medical practice; and the Editor flatters himself, that being written in the epistolary form, they will prove more useful, especially to young physicians, than more laboured systems.

No fame can attend, and no emolument is desired from the publication. If the work proves acceptable to the gentlemen of the faculty, it is all that is desired by the

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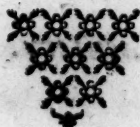
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M E D I C A L CONSULTATIONS.

C A S E I.

Of a Vomiting.

S I R,

I Received your letter yesterday, respecting the lady who is troubled with a vomiting. The circumstances, of which you accurately inform me, are, that she is about thirty-six years of age, and, before the disorder seized her, was of a plump habit of body, though now she is greatly fallen

B

off:

off: that this complaint first attacked her some months ago, at the time when she was a nurse, and that she vomits almost all the food she takes, within two or three minutes after eating.

As it appears that she formerly enjoyed a good state of health, but has always been somewhat delicate in her constitution, I am inclined to ascribe her present complaint, not to any fixed disorder in her stomach, but merely to a weakness, occasioned probably by suckling, which is often the cause of various disorders in delicate women; and from this consideration I would entertain great hopes of her recovery.

I AM not in the least surpris'd that she is sensible of no benefit from spearmint water, in the use of which, it seems, she has so long persevered. That water, as far as I have observed, contains only a sedative, not a strengthening quality; and where it failed of removing

moving an irritation in the stomach, on being taken once or twice, I have seldom or never known a continuance in the use of it attended with any success.

WHAT I have always found to produce the best effects in complaints arising from a debility of the stomach, next to the waters of Bath, and Aix la Chapelle, are; the Peruvian bark, and steel medicines, united with some of the most grateful bitters. To you I should think it wholly unnecessary to mention any particular prescription; but being confident of the laudable attention you pay to medical facts, I shall embrace this opportunity of specifying a composition, which I have several times found effectual in curing such complaints. It is as follows.

R. Cort. Peruvian. crasse pulver. aurantior. ana uncias duas, vin. Lisbonens. lib. duas; infunde per quatuor vel sex dies, collaturæ
B 2 adde,

adde, vin. chalybeat. uncias quatuor.

I commonly advise the patient to begin with one spoonful of this tincture, twice or thrice a day, and increase the dose gradually to two or three spoonfuls, as it is found that the stomach can bear it. This medicine generally performs a cure in the space of six weeks, or two months; but moderate exercise, the best of which is certainly riding on horseback, ought always to be used along with it. I need not mention the concomitant injunctions, of using aliments of the lightest kind, and of taking them in small quantity at a time, until the stomach has recovered its strength; nor yet of preserving, as much as possible, tranquillity of mind, than which nothing is more requisite in the cure of stomachic complaints.

I shall be glad to know the success of our endeavours, and am, &c.

From

From the time that the lady began to use the above-mentioned tincture, the complaint in her stomach gradually abated, and in the space of two months was entirely removed.

C A S E II.

Difficulty of Deglutition, from a Tumor about the Bottom of the Oesophagus.

S I R,

I ENTIRELY concur with you in opinion, that the difficulty of deglutition in the gentleman of whose case you send me an account, is owing chiefly to a tumor, and not a spasmodic constriction, about the bottom of the Oesophagus. What confirms me in this opinion, is, that though during this twelvemonth past, at which time he was first sensible of the complaint, he has used nervous medicines with a liberal hand, yet the

disorder has rather increased than diminished. Besides, it does not appear that the impediment you describe is accompanied with any other symptom which can be attributed to a spasmodic cause. It would perhaps be too dogmatical, however, to deny the smallest degree of a nervous affection to exist in the case of this patient; for the variable state of the disorder, being sometimes better and sometimes worse, seems strongly to evince the reality of such a complication.

It is much to be regretted, that the gentleman has been so late of putting himself under your care, as he is now greatly emaciated by the long continuance of the disorder. But if it be in the power of art to afford him any relief, in his present situation, I am fully persuaded that calomel is the medicine which ought to be tried. I have known it effect a cure in two instances of a similar nature; but the patients had begun the use of it at an earlier period of the disorder.

disease, before the faculty of deglutition became so much interrupted as to impair the strength in any considerable degree, and render them incapable of supporting under the accidents which might be produced by the operation of the remedy. It is peculiarly unfortunate, that the gentleman labours under a weakness of the bowels since he formerly had the dysentery; as this circumstance will require great caution in the use of mercury. I am firmly of opinion, nevertheless, that all the hopes of recovery in this case depend entirely on calomel. The situation of the patient is truly desperate, and might justify the administration of a hazardous medicine by a person of infinitely less abilities and experience, than him to whom I am writing. I shall expect to be favoured with an account of the event, and am, &c.

The gentleman entered immediately on the use of calomel, beginning with

the quantity of one grain in the day. For about a week it produced no sensible effect; but a diarrhea afterwards ensued, which, notwithstanding the calomel was laid aside, resisted the force of every remedy, and the patient died in six weeks. On opening the body, a tumor, filled with a steatomatous substance, was found at the bottom of the oesophagus, extending almost over two thirds of its circumference.

CASE

CASE III.

Of the Tinnitus Aurium.

S I R,

WITHOUT doubt you acted judiciously in advising your patient's ears to be syringed, as soon as you was informed of his complaint; for though that operation, could not affect the cause of the disorder, it had at least some tendency to palliate the consequences of it. An irregular, crackling noise in the ears, or sometimes a dulness of hearing only, is no uncommon symptom in a catarrh, and in people who go to bed immediately after hard drinking. It is also frequently observed to precede the apoplexy, and some other disorders of the head. None of all these causes or effects, however, is to be apprehended in the case of which you write. The troublesome symptom whereof your patient complains, proceeds entirely from flatulence or acidity
in

in the stomach. I have been very often consulted, in relation to it, by people who lead an inactive life, to whom it is extremely familiar. Though it be a complaint that naturally excites anxiety, it is never attended with any danger, so far as I have observed. The cure of it, however, is extremely difficult; for among a great number whom I have known affected with it, very few if any, have experienced a radical cure. I will not, therefore, take upon me to prognosticate a total cessation of the complaint; neither is there reason to expect that it will ever be much mitigated by the use of stomachic medicines only. The bark, however, with chalybeates, and some of the aromatic bitters, ought certainly not to be omitted; though an active life, and especially riding on horseback, are what have been found most beneficial. Brisk and habitual exercise is of so great advantage in this complaint, and every other method of palliation so temporary and ineffectual without

without it, that, provided the patients submit to proper injunctions respecting that article, I would not be solicitous for restricting them within such a narrow sphere of diet as I have sometimes known rigidly prescribed. Vegetable food undoubtedly aggravates the complaint; but the most alcalescent regimen that can be used with safety to the constitution, will not prevent the flatulence that arises from too slow digestion in a stomach whose fibres are relaxed. In a word, the effect of medicines is so inconsiderable in the Tinnitus Aurium, and a minute attention to diet attended likewise with so little advantage, that I would seek for the mitigation of it entirely in habitual exercise. I am, &c.

C A S E

C A S E IV.

*Of a Disorder from an imperforated
Hymen.*

Dr. S I R,

F R O M the account with which you favour me, of the case of a young woman, I am strongly of opinion that her complaint proceeds from an imperforated hymen. It bears so great resemblance to a case which lately fell under my observation, that for your satisfaction I shall here give you a short detail of it.

A young woman, between eighteen and nineteen, had been troubled, for upwards of three years, with tenfive pains about the region of the uterus and loins, which usually returned every month, increasing in severity, and continuing two or three days at a time. At these periods she complained of a difficulty in making water, which at first
was

was less considerable, but increased with the repetition of the disorder. A weight and distention were also felt in the uterus, which though most violent at those periods never entirely subsided, but remained more perceptible after each invasion of the complaint. She was of a full habit of body, and had never had any catamenia.

A surgeon to whom she had applied for relief, concluding from the most urgent symptom which attended the case, that her complaint was chiefly a stranguary, had plied her for several months, with medicines adapted to that malady; which, so far from affording any benefit, had even aggravated the disorder. In this situation she was brought by her friends to ask my advice; when after considering all the circumstances, I was of opinion that her complaint proceeded from a retention of the menstrual blood, which I imagined had been discharged into the uterus at each invasion of her disorder;

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disorder; and not finding a passage, that it was at length accumulated in that organ in so great a quantity as to produce a continual uneasiness. I accordingly advised she should be examined by a midwife, and the result of the enquiry was, a confirmation of what I had suspected. The operation was soon afterwards performed, and a quantity of blood discharged, partly coagulated, to the amount of almost four pounds. Since that time, I have been informed that the girl enjoys perfect health, and has her menses regularly. Whether the case of your patient is not entirely of a similar nature, I leave you to determine, and am, &c.

The issue of this case proved the same almost in every circumstance, with what has been above related.

CASE

C A S E V.

Of the Fluor Albus.

S I R,

I AM favoured with your very obliging commands, respecting Lady--- who I am sorry to be informed labours at present under the Fluor Albus. I have not the honour to know her ladyship, though I can boast of the acquaintance and friendship of her worthy and truly respectable consort; but my ignorance in what relates to her constitution, is abundantly supplied by your accurate account of her case.

I am glad to find that the disorder is not the consequence of a relaxed habit of body, but of an accident which, however inauspicious to the hopes of the family, affords the prospect of a more speedy recovery to her ladyship, than could have been expected had the complaint

complaint not been owing to an abortion, but to a more slow and insidious cause. As it is only two months since the accident happened, and she was not much reduced by the evacuation that accompanied it, I flatter myself that in a short time we shall be able to overcome the disorder. The object we have in view in this case, is not to alter the habit of body, which appears to be exceeding good, but merely to restore the tone of the uterine vessels; in effecting which purpose, her Ladyship's natural vigour, and temperance, will greatly avail us. Besides, it would seem from the quantity of the daily discharge, that the dilatation of the vessels is not very considerable.

You have very properly prescribed the Peruvian bark; and as it produces no disturbance in the stomach or bowels, the use of it ought certainly to be persevered in a longer time. I need say nothing farther, than that I concur with you in the propriety of the regimen you have
ordered;

ordered; viz. a light diet, a moderate glass of Claret or Port wine, Pyrmont water; and the use of daily exercise in the carriage. Should the complaint not soon yield to these means, recourse to some of the Spaws will be adviseable. I shall be anxious to hear of her ladyship's perfect recovery; and am, &c.

The lady observed the directions abovementioned for the space of six or seven weeks, in which time her disorder gradually abated, when the use of the hot wells at Bristol completed her recovery.

C A S E

C A S E VI.

Of an Incontinence of Urine.

S I R,

L A S T night I received your letter concerning the case of the gentleman who is troubled with an incontinence of Urine. From his being towards sixty years of age, and the free course of life he has led, I am somewhat apprehensive that the disorder proceeds not entirely from a simple relaxation of the sphincter of the bladder, but from a paralytic affection of that part. What inclines me the more to this opinion is, that you inform me he was seized about five years ago with a palsy of the tongue.

According to this idea of the disorder, I should not expect much advantage to result from the use of corroborating medicines, which are adapted to debility only. In patients under the
years

years of puberty, and sometimes even in adults, I have cured an incontinence of urine by means of the Peruvian bark, and in a few instances by milder astringents. But that these medicines promise no success in the present case, seems too probable from their having been already used for the space of six weeks, without any sensible benefit. I must own, therefore, I think it advisable that recourse should be had to more stimulating and nervous medicines; at least that these be mixed with the astringents. Besides nervous medicines, properly so called, perhaps the native balsams might be used in this case with advantage. The effect of warm, stimulating applications to the region of the pubes, should at the same time not be neglected.

In the latest case I had occasion to see of an incontinence of urine, I observed that the involuntary discharge became much less frequent during the time that

a boil, which accidentally broke forth upon the loins, was in a state of inflammation. But whether any topical application, calculated to excite an irritation of that part, would produce the same effect, I have not had an opportunity to determine.*

If the common method should prove ineffectual, the Bath waters ought undoubtedly to be tried. In the hope of our patient's recovery, I remain, &c.

The gentleman, whose case is the subject of the foregoing letter, recovered of his complaint in a few weeks, by warm medicines and the liberal use of wine, but in a twelvemonth afterwards he fell into a Hemiplegia, for the cure of which every method that could be devised proved totally ineffectual.

* This suggestion seems to correspond with the practice recommended by Dr. Dickson in the Medical Observations and Enquiries; namely, of applying blisters to the Os Sacrum, in cases of incontinence of urine.

C A S E

C A S E VII.

Of a Pain of the Stomach.

Dear S I R,

I H A V E had the pleasure to receive yours by the hands of your son, of whom all my friends who have seen him already entertain the highest opinion. He has been requested to repeat his visits at my house as often as is suitable with his convenience; and you will much oblige me by pressing his acceptance of the invitation with your parental authority.

In respect to the gentleman of whom you write, there seems to be no doubt but the pain whereof he complains when his stomach is empty, proceeds from a bilious cause. His age, constitution, diet, and active life, all dispose him to such a temperament; besides that he is subject to nidorus eructations,

and sometimes bilious diarrhœas. You are certainly right in your opinion that his complaint will be more successfully mitigated by following a proper regimen, than by any medicines whatever. There is not a better remedy for bilious disorders, than the use of an acescent diet, which we always find to be indicated by nature when the stomach is the seat of the complaint. I join issue with you, however, in regard to the propriety of his occasionally taking a little rhubarb, especially when he is sensible of any oppression upon the chylopoietic organs. For relieving the pain of his stomach, at other times, I would propose his taking ten or fifteen drops of the Elixir of Vitriol, in a dish of camomile tea. I have only to remark farther, that, considering the tendency of the gentleman's constitution, he ought to be particularly careful of catching cold during the hot months of the year, which are now approaching; as such an accident might produce an erysipelas, with which
you

you inform me he was seized last summer. An excursion to Scarborough, I am of opinion, would be attended with much benefit to his health. I always am, &c.

C A S E VIII.

Of the method of preventing an Ague.

S I R,

I H A V E been favoured with yours, and would have answered it sooner had I not been at Bath when it came to hand, from which place I arrived only last night. I hope, however, that the return of the intermitting fever, of which you continue to be apprehensive since you was seized with it a few years ago, has not precluded the propriety of communicating to you my sentiments so late, in regard to its prevention.

When you was formerly attacked with that disorder, I believe you learned

from experience the necessity of observing a very accurate regimen. I do not mean, however, that you ought, at this time, strictly to follow the rules which were then prescribed. Your case at present is greatly different from that of a convalescent, and demands, no doubt, a more free indulgence in point of living.

You inform me that the place where you now reside is in a damp situation, and that several persons in your neighbourhood have lately been seized with the ague, which likewise in general proves very obstinate. These, I own, are circumstances which justify some degree of apprehension; nor ought they, most certainly, to be disregarded. It is therefore my opinion that, during the present disposition of the air, and the prevalence of easterly winds, you should remove to a drier situation. Should you make an excursion to Bath, and drink the waters, I am persuaded your constitution would be a good deal fortified against the invasion of the disorder.

If

If you should not acquiesce in the proposal of removing, it will then be proper that you follow the most advisable rules which can be practised at home for answering the same end. Besides temperance in respect of quantity, I would therefore recommend to you to use a diet chiefly of the solid kind. The most proper drink would be Pyrmont water, with which you may be supplied from your neighbouring town; and after every meal, you ought to take three or four glasses of good Port wine. As to exercise, you should ride eight or ten miles at least every day on horseback: and I would also advise you to make frequent use of the flesh-brush at night, especially when the weather is moist; at which time, likewise, you ought to keep good fires in your apartments.

If I remember rightly, you was heartily tired of the bark in your last illness, notwithstanding which I must take the liberty

liberty of recommending the occasional use of it in your present disposition. You can, perhaps, comply the more readily with this injunction, as it may now be sufficient that you take it in tincture, which is the lightest form of prescribing it. Let me advise you to the use of the following, as an excellent prophylactic in your case.

R Cort. Peruvian. crasse pulveri-
fat. unc. duas rad. serpentar.
virgin. drachmas duas. Spir.
vin. Gallic. lib. duas. Infunde
per quatuor vel sex dies, &
cola.

Of this tincture I would have you take a glass every morning, when either the weather is damp, or you are sensible of any tendency to chilliness. If the mixture of the snake-root should render it too hot in the mouth, it may be qualified by the addition of a spoonful of water.

During

During such a state of the weather as is favourable to the production of agues, it will be proper to avoid indigestion and costiveness, as much as possible. On this account, a vomit of camomile-tea, or a small dose of some stomachic purgative, may be taken occasionally. A spoonful either of the tincture of rhubarb, or elixir sacrum, will answer the purpose; and it may be used with most advantage at bed-time. I have nothing more to add, than that I shall be anxious to hear of your enjoying the continuance of a good state of health, and that I am, &c.

C A S E

CASE IX.

Of an Obstruction of the Menses.

S I R,

I AM not satisfied that the vomiting, and head-ach, of which your patient, Miss --- complains, is owing to the cause so confidently ascribed by her relations; namely, her having drank some dishes of bad tea at the --- assembly,

In the first place, it would appear, that her mother and two sisters, besides several other ladies, partook of the same tea, and probably in much the same quantity, without experiencing any bad effect. I am very ready to make an allowance for the difference of constitutions, and the peculiar circumstances of individuals, as practice every day affords subject for observations of that kind; but at the same time we ought to be cautious of

of imputing to any particular cause, what is more probably the consequence of another, especially in cases where the method of cure must be greatly varied by that determination. In judging of the procatactic cause of a disease, where it seems to be equivocal, I have always made it a rule to be guided in my opinion, by a view of the natural conformity of the supposed cause to the circumstances of the constitution, and the effects produced in it: nor do I know by what other criterion we can rationally decide on the subject. For it so often happens in physic, that two or more causes apparently coincide, to which a disease may be referred, that without such an examination of their respective claims to superiority, our ideas of the nature of diseases, as depending on particular causes, must be for ever involved in obscurity.

I hope you will excuse me for this digression, into which I have been led
from

from a zeal for our patient's recovery, and the desire of justifying to her relations the means we shall prescribe for that purpose.

It appears from your representation of the case of this young lady, that her *Menses* have been greatly obstructed for three months past. A head-ache, therefore, and sickness at the stomach, are no unusual symptoms in that situation; and though they seem not to have supervened till the night of the assembly, there is the strongest reason for admitting them to be the consequence of a disorder which is always attended with a disposition to produce such effects.

In what I have above advanced, towards ascertaining the genuine nature of Miss ----'s complaint, I have rested the argument chiefly on the insufficiency of the cause alledged by her relations, and the probability of its being ultimately derived from a more remote origin. But
may

may it not be farther urged in refutation of their opinion, that had the disorder been occasioned merely by drinking bad tea, why should it continue for the space of almost a fortnight? we seldom find that any irritation so long survives the discharge of the cause which produced it.

I am therefore of opinion that the young lady's complaint proceeds originally from an obstruction of the Menfes, and that the cure of it is not to be attempted by persevering any longer in the use of vomits, which, though frequently of advantage in removing that disorder, when the indication is to communicate a greater impulse to the fluids, might prove of dangerous consequence in a case where the patient is so plethoric as she is represented to be. The first step we ought to take is bleeding, in order to diminish the fulness of the vessels; and I think it would be proper to draw a few ounces from the arm, according to the practice of

of Riverius, previous to opening a vein in the foot. The disorder may soon, perhaps, be removed by this operation; or if it should continue a longer time, I make no doubt of its being completely cured by prosecuting the other common methods of cure. The medicines which promise to be most beneficial in the present case are, lenitive cathartics, and the *Pilulæ Rufi*, to which two or three grains of calomel may sometimes be added. The tincture *helleb. nig.* is much used by my learned friend Dr. Mead, for obstructions in sanguine constitutions; but it seems to me to be more successful in promoting the first menstruation in young girls when that is attended with difficulty, than in removing future obstructions. I entertain the hope of being soon informed that the young lady is restored to perfect health, and am, &c.

P. S. I have not mentioned any topical applications, as it is probable

ble that the use of the Pediluvia has already been advised, which I think extremely proper. Even the Semicupium might be used with great advantage. As to any other, if you except cupping-glasses, they seem to me unnecessary.



D C A S E

of his wife, which happened a bout five months ago, the clergyman, who has been long accustomed to a sedentary life, has too much abandoned himself to dissipation and melancholy reflections. His constitution is almost entirely gone, his action greatly impaired, his sleep is not only short, but extremely confused.

C A S E X.

Of a Hypochondriac Complaint.

Dear S I R,

Y O U R favour of Tuesday last, containing the case of a reverend gentleman, I have received; and at the same time, great satisfaction from the manner in which you propose treating it. I am so much precluded from offering any thing new on the subject, that to avoid the charge of inattention, I shall briefly recapitulate the circumstances you have mentioned.

It appears, then, that since the death of his wife, which happened a bout five months ago, the clergyman, who has been long accustomed to a sedentary life, has too much abandoned himself to solitude and melancholy reflexions. That his appetite is almost entirely gone, his digestion greatly impaired, his sleep is not only short, but extremely confused,
he

he has become subject to a troublesome salivation, a vertigo seizes him on the smallest motion to stoop, he complains of incessant borborygmi, obstinate costiveness, and palpitations in various parts of the body. He has also frequently a disposition to fainting, attended with a flatulent oppression of the stomach.

All these symptoms you very justly consider as the consequences of a sedentary life, and excessive anxiety. If the gentleman can be diverted, by company and amusements, from ruminating on the cause of his affliction, and can be induced to ride much on horseback, no doubt need be entertained of his recovery; but without his compliance in these points, I am afraid all our endeavours will prove vain. The utmost that can be effected by medicine, in his case, is to alleviate the disposition to fainting by the occasional use of some cordial and carminative stomachic; and to prevent costiveness by lenitives. Bitters also, for

exciting his appetite, are certainly highly proper; and I approve of your caution in dissuading him from the use of laudanum. For though it might afford some temporary repose, it would increase the general relaxation. When the tone of his bowels is restored by exercise and tranquillity of mind, his sleep will return in its natural course; nor can it be otherwise solicited at present, than by such means as would counteract the indications of cure. If he were a little more reconciled to the pleasures of society, a journey to Bath would certainly be advisable in his case. I sincerely wish his recovery; and in the agreeable expectation of seeing you soon in town, I remain, &c.

The gentleman occasionally used the palliative remedies, mentioned in the above letter, and undertook a long journey on horseback, by which he was perfectly cured.

CASE

C A S E XI.

Of the Means of Impregnation.

M A D A M,

I A M honoured with your ladyship's obliging commands, and wish it were in the power of medicine to afford the satisfaction you desire. But in reality, nothing has baffled the efforts of our profession more than an enquiry into the means by which impregnation may certainly be obtained. It appears to be one of the secrets of nature which we never can thoroughly investigate, though many have pretended to an infallible medicine for the purpose. The utmost degree of knowledge at which we have arrived in this point, is to discover that there are certain disorders of the womb, which prove unfavourable to conception; but we are still at a loss to determine the particular cause of barrenness, when no symptoms countenance the pre-

sumption of a morbid state of that organ. To me, there seems to be strong reason for thinking, that the capacity of bearing children does not depend solely on a sound condition of the womb, as in all women, the time of conception is generally irregular and uncertain.

Notwithstanding the obscurity in which this subject is involved, I am satisfied, from repeated observation, that the cold bath, and chalybeate waters are sometimes beneficial for producing pregnancy; and I see no impropriety in your ladyship's making trial of both, though, exclusive of that purpose, the state of your health seems not to require the use of either.

As it is now summer, I would therefore advise your ladyship to have recourse to the cold bath every morning during the hot season, except at the time of the monthly periods, when you may refrain from it. An excellent bath was built by his lordship's father, which I suppose is
still

still in repair. The Bath waters you can afterwards make use of in the winter.

Whether the assistance of these means should be immediately successful in producing a prolific effect, or not, your ladyship's youth, and good state of health, afford the strongest presumption to hope that you will yet be the happy mother of a numerous offspring. I beg leave to offer my most respectful compliments to his lordship, and lady —.

I have the honour to be, &c.



C A S E XII.

Of stopping an Issue.

S I R,

A T your desire, Dr. Clephane and I have consulted together on the question, whether lord ——— may with safety close up the issue between his shoulders; and we concur in opinion, that the execution of such a project might be attended with great danger.

The issue, you inform us, was first opened about twenty-three years ago, with the view of alleviating a rheumatic complaint; and preserving his lordship's health, who is much inclined to corpulency. During the whole time, it has discharged pretty plentifully, and is at present exceedingly troublesome on account of the hot weather.

It would have afforded us both great pleasure had the consideration of these circumstances been sufficient to induce our judgement to an acquiescence with his lordship's inclination; but the truth is, we cannot think ourselves authorized to determine in favour of that side. Our opinion is founded on the following reasons.

Though his lordship is now about sixty-seven years of age, his corpulency is not in the least diminished, but remains nearly in the same state as at the time when the issue was opened. If, therefore, my lord found benefit from the issue in his rheumatic disorder, there would be reason for apprehending a return of his complaint when that drain no longer existed; and should such prove the case at the present period, when his lordship is considerably more advanced in years, it is probable that the attack of the rheumatism would now be more severe than formerly,

But

But independent of any regard to the return of the rheumatism, we have often observed fatal effects follow the stoppage of an evacuation to which persons had been long accustomed. Fevers, inflammations, obstructions, disorders of various kinds have been the consequence. And it is difficult to say what might not be the result of the intended expedient in his lordship's case, considering that he is of a full habit of body, and the issue has always discharged copiously.

For these reasons we are of opinion that his lordship ought not to close up his issue, notwithstanding the uneasiness which at present he experiences from it.

We remain, &c.

The noble lord stopped the issue contrary to the advice we had given. From that time he increased greatly in corpulency, and died of a putrid fever in a few months after.

C A S E

CASE XIII.

Of wandering Pains.

S I R,

FROM perusing the case with which your excellency has favoured me, drawn up by the surgeon of the regiment, I am of opinion that the wandering pains of which you complain are not of the rheumatic, but arthritic kind; and I am led to this idea not only from your manner of life, and the hereditary right entailed on you, but also from the circumstances which preceded your disorder.

I remember to have been informed, that three years ago, and I do not think your excellency's constitution is in the least impaired since that time, you resisted a rheumatism which, more or less, seized the greatest part of the troops, officers as well as private men, who were stationed

stationed with you in the camp. If this was the case when you lived in a marshy situation, can it be thought that you should be more liable to an invasion of that disorder at present; since the place of your residence is remarkably dry and healthy, and you have enjoyed, as I understand, the finest season that has been known for some years. The unusual flatulence in your stomach, and costiveness, which preceded the pains, afford additional presumption that your disorder is an irregular gout.

Let me therefore, earnestly dissuade your excellency from large bleeding, to which it seems you was advised. For however suitable that method of cure might be to a rheumatism of the genuine inflammatory kind, allow me to assure you, that it would prove extremely prejudicial in your case. Instead of that evacuation, which ought always to be very cautiously used in arthritic disorders, I would recommend occasional recourse
to

to the sacred elixir, or tincture, taken in such a quantity as to prevent costiveness. A spoonful of either, at bed-time, will probably answer the purpose. As the pains are not fixed, it would likewise be proper that you bathe your feet pretty frequently, at night, in warm water, in order to solicit a derivation to those parts which are the natural seat of the disease. I shall only add, that upon a remission of the complaint, your excellency should take a journey to Bath.

In regard to the serjeant who is frequently troubled with convulsions since he was seized with the locked jaw in the West Indies, I am not so clearly informed of the history of his case, as to be able to give a decisive opinion. I must therefore desire that your excellency will order the surgeon to send me a particular account of the supposed cause of the man's former complaint, and the manner in which it was treated, if these circumstances be known. I have the honour to be, &c.

C A S E

C A S E XIV.

Of a Tertian Fever.

M A D A M,

I HAVE this moment received your ladyship's letter respecting the case of the two young gentlemen your sons; and before I proceed any farther, let me intreat your ladyship to entertain no apprehensions on their account.

By the history of master Harry's case, with which I am furnished, it appears, that about three weeks ago he was seized with a regular tertian fever; and that after sustaining five fits, being twice vomited, and his belly opened with a laxative, the bark was administered to him, in a full intermission of the disease, the return of which has been entirely prevented by that medicine. The symptom that now alarms your ladyship, is, it seems, a lightness of his head, and a
fort

sort of insipieny, which you ascribe to
 his having taken the bark too early.
 Permit me to assure your ladyship, that
 the bark could not produce any bad ef-
 fect, in the situation he is described to
 have been in at the time of his taking
 it. The symptom above mentioned is
 nothing more than the consequence of
 his being much reduced by the fever,
 supervening so soon after the hooping
 cough. It will gradually abate as he
 recovers strength. For which purpose
 a nourishing diet, and a glass or two of
 red wine after meals, with moderate ex-
 ercise in a carriage, as soon as he can
 bear it, must be prescribed to him.
 Nay, I will venture to recommend half
 a drachm or two scruples of the bark
 to be given to him once or twice
 every day in some light form, such
 as the decoction, both for preventing
 the return of the ague, and promoting
 the recovery of his strength. Upon the
 whole, your ladyship may remain per-
 fectly satisfied, not only in respect to the
 propriety

propriety of the manner in which he has been treated, but the safety of his present situation.

With respect to his elder brother, the disorder with which he is seized will, in all probability, turn out to be of the same kind ; but being stronger than master Harry, there is no doubt of his suffering less from the disease. I hope, however, I need not recommend to your ladyship, to allow the bark to be given him as soon as the attending surgeon thinks proper ; on whose skill, I am certain from his judicious treatment of the former patient, you may perfectly rely.

Your ladyship is unquestionably right in your resolution of not carrying the other children at present to where you have taken up your residence, as the ague is just now so prevalent in that part of the country. It would even be proper that your ladyship and the young gentlemen should remove to another air

as

as soon as possible, both for the preservation of your own health, and the restoration of theirs.

I have the honour to be, &c.

CASE XV.

Of the same.

M A D A M,

FROM your ladyship's last letter, which is just now come by express, and the inclosed case from the surgeon, I am sorry to understand that master George's disorder turns out to be a continual fever. That it was not originally of that nature I am pretty confident, both from the similarity which it bore, at the beginning, to that with which his brother had been seized, and the frequency of agues at present in your ladyship's neighbourhood. I suspect that it must have been occasioned by too hot a regimen, which the women have prescribed, while the surgeon lay under the imputation of mismanagement in the

E

case

case of master Harry. As I do not question, however, but before this time your ladyship is satisfied of the rectitude of his conduct, I hope he is now reinstated in the direction; and that by bleeding, if found necessary, and some gentle purge, he has already brought the fever to an intermission. Should that not yet have happened, your ladyship's communicating to him this letter will acquaint him with my sentiments concerning the method of cure which is to be pursued, in consequence of such an idea of the disease. Besides one vomit at least, I should approve of giving the saline draughts three or four times a day, before the bark is administered.

So much for the method of cure in general. With respect to any particular symptom that may arise, the treatment of it must be left entirely to the surgeon's own discretion and judgment.

At

At a time when the air in your part of the country is so much disposed to produce agues, it would be highly proper that your ladyship should make use of the tincture which I once recommended to you for preventing that disorder.*

I have the honour to be, &c.

* This is probably the same tincture that is mentioned in Case viii.

E 2 CASE

C A S E XVI.

Of Obstructions of the Lungs.

S I R,

I H A V E received your very distinct account of the situation of young lord ----, who has lately had the measles, and is now troubled with a cough and difficulty of breathing. There is too much ground for concluding that obstructions are formed in his lungs; and it would appear, from the seat of the obtuse pain which he feels upon coughing, that the disorder is chiefly in the right lobe.

It is unnecessary to observe, that complaints of this kind are always attended with great danger, and frequently terminate in a fatal event. It gives me pleasure, however, to find in this case, that our patient remains hitherto free from the symptoms which accom-

pany

pany an advanced stage of the disease. His fever is not very considerable, his cough not very harrassing, he has no unusual sweats, his appetite is pretty good, and his habit of body not much reduced by the preceding disorder. All these circumstances afford room for a favourable prognostication.

Our endeavours are to be directed towards preventing an inflammation of the tubercles, and procuring a resolution of them. In prosecuting the first of these indications, it is not improbable but bleeding in small quantity may be requisite; and of that you will determine by the degree of feverishness, and difficulty of respiration.

For promoting the resolution of the obstructions, I would advise the use of the following remedy.

R. Mellis despumat. unc. duas,
sperm. cœti unc. unam, sal.
ammoniac, crud. drachmas tres.
m. f. electuarium, cujus capiat
q. n. m. bis terve in die.

If the fever should be any thing considerable, two drachms of nitre might be added to the electuary.

As the seat of the obstruction is pointed out by a pain in the right lobe of the lungs, I would recommend the putting a seton in the right side, as near as possible to the part affected. This expedient is of great advantage in making a derivation, and will not only assist greatly in resolving the obstructions, but conduce to prevent their inflammation.

I am anticipated in advising a milk diet, and riding on horseback, which he must continue to use according to your direction. I think it absolutely proper, however, that his lordship be sent immediately to Bristol, for the benefit of the waters; by the use of which, and the other means prescribed, I entertain the greatest hopes of his speedy and perfect recovery. I am, &c.

C A S E

C A S E XVII.

Of the Hooping-Cough.

S I R,

AT the desire of the duke of----who is informed that the hooping-cough is just now very frequent in the neighbourhood of----where his grace's children reside, I take the freedom of communicating to you a few thoughts on the cure of that disorder, which I hope will not be unacceptable.

I have long been induced to consider the hooping-cough as a mixed disease, in which not only the lungs, but the stomach are greatly affected, and where regard must be had to both these objects, in drawing the indications of cure. The discharge of the phlegmatic humours is what in this case we ought always to have principally in view; as being the material cause of the cough, and the

foundation of the visceral obstructions which frequently succeed the disease. Having determined, therefore, whether bleeding be necessary or not, in which point our judgment is to be guided by an attention to the state of the pulse, the difficulty of respiration, and the patient's habit in regard to plethora; an emetic ought to be given, and repeated occasionally during the cure, for the purpose of relieving the stomach and breast from the load with which they are oppressed. Alternately with emetics, cathartics ought also to be used, in order to cleanse the intestinal canal from the viscidities lodged in it, and make a derivation of the humours from the superior parts. The physic I generally use for this purpose is rhubarb, to which, for the most part, I add two or three grains of calomel.

When the violence of the disorder is abated by these means, the medicines I have always found most successful in performing a radical cure, are the Peruvian bark, and bitters. While

While these medicines are used, we must palliate the cough when violent, as in other cases, by means of linctures, opiates, Pediluvia, and blisters, if these are judged necessary, though otherwise they ought to be avoided.

The diet we prescribe in this case is always of the lightest kind; such as panado, boiled currants and barley, turnips, &c.

Should his grace's children be seized with the whooping-cough in the country, they will fall under your care; and I persuade myself that by following the above general method of cure, as your own judgment directs, you will find the practice successful. I am, &c.

P. S. It is proper to inform you, that the whooping-cough which has been endemic in town for some weeks, requires more copious bleeding, than

than I have known to be necessary in several preceding seasons. This is probably owing to the long duration of the frost. Whether the case be the same in your part of the country, I know not; but the fact deserves to be attended to.



CASE

CASE XVIII.

Of a Stomachic Complaint.

My LORD BISHOP,

I HAVE received your lordship's letter, reciting the history of your complaint, and at the same time your suspicion that it is of a dangerous nature. Your lordship informs me that you was lately seized with a severe cold, which confined you to the house for three weeks, and obliged you to use a low diet. That your cough is now almost entirely gone; but that you have a difficulty of breathing, and frequently feel a pain about the bottom of your breast, as you do likewise across the upper part of your belly.

Believe me, my Lord, the disorder of which you complain is not the Phthisis Pulmonalis, whereof you seem so very apprehensive, but merely a flatulent pain

pain of the stomach and bowels, which I impute to the confinement and low diet, to which your lordship submitted in your late indisposition. Nothing is more common than for such complaints to succeed, where the stomach has been relaxed by an abstinence from solid food, and digestion impaired from want of exercise.

Let me therefore advise your lordship to lay aside your balsamic electuaries, and pectoral decoctions, as what are of no advantage in your case. Instead of affording benefit, they are absolutely prejudicial, by increasing the relaxation. The best medicines for your lordship's disorder will be the sacred tincture, taken in such a quantity as to keep the belly open; with the use of the stomachic tincture which you formerly experienced so serviceable. Along with these, you ought to ride much on horseback for some time. If the visitation of the diocese is not yet over, your lordship

ship will probably be sensible of benefit from that journey. I could wish that the archdeacon had examined more accurately into the state of the gentleman whom he had seen at ----, and who labours under a Phthisis Pulmonalis. Had he done so, he may be assured he would have found the symptoms very different from those which accompany your lordship's case. By the time that you usually come to town, my lord, I hope to see you in perfect health. I have the honour to be, &c.

CASE

C A S E XIX.

Of preventing a Colic.

S I R,

I HAVE considered your case, respecting a disposition to the colic, with which, it appears, you have of late been greatly afflicted. From the idea I conceive of your constitution, and likewise from the various causes which give rise to your disorder, there is the strongest reason to conclude that your colic is of the flatulent kind. In order to prevent it, therefore, you ought to avoid, as much as possible, all sorts of food which you find from experience excite uneasiness in your bowels. The farinaceous and leguminous substances are particularly disposed to produce that effect, on which account you ought to be cautious of using them in great quantity in your diet; or if you do indulge yourself, you should correct them by
 taking

taking sufficiently of papper along with them. The liberal use of pepper, however, and indeed of all other spices, is attended with this inconvenience, that they naturally dispose to costiveness, which is also a fruitful source of your complaint, and ought particularly to be guarded against. What is said of flatulent food is to be understood likewise of malt liquors, not properly fermented. Whatever occasions indigestion, or spasmodic affections of the bowels, such as the passions of the mind, much exercise immediately after a hearty meal, wet feet, &c. are frequently productive of the flatulent colic, and demand your attention.

Your chief care ought to be, to prevent costiveness, which not only tends to produce your complaint, but also to support and increase it. For answering this intention, I would recommend to you the occasional use of the sacred tincture; of which you may take a spoonful at bed-time, if you find that quantity to
have

have sufficient effect; if otherwise, enlarge the dose.

But the most effectual means of preventing your colic, is by strengthening the bowels; to which nothing so much conduces as daily exercise on horseback. Let me therefore advise you to renounce the sedentary habit that has occasioned your complaint, and return to a more active kind of life. I could insure you of great benefit likewise from the use of Bath waters. Be persuaded to follow these rules, and I doubt not of your entirely overcoming the disorder.

I am, &c.

C A S E

C A S E XX.

Of an immoderate Flux of the Menses.

S I R,

I A M favoured with your account of lady ----, who for these two months past has been subject to an immoderate flux of the Menses, which have appeared four times in the course of that interval, and in a quantity always nearly equal to what was wont to be discharged at the regular periods. It is not apparent, it seems, that her ladyship was in a more plethoric habit of body at the invasion of this complaint, than she had formerly been; and you rightly remark, that the grief she has suffered by the death of her mother, affords presumption in favour of the probability of this observation. You mention, likewise, that no sensible cause has existed from which we can imagine the disorder to proceed from a particular
F relaxation

relaxation of the uterus. I very readily join you in opinion respecting both the circumstances you have specified, which I would absolve from any share, either principal or accessory, in producing the complaint. It appears to me that her ladyship's disorder is entirely owing to an irritable state of body, occasioned by the excessive grief she has indulged for her amiable mother, who died about four months ago. Admitting such to be the cause, the indication of cure evidently is, to allay the irritability, which, having its source in one of the most intractable passions of the mind, I am afraid is above our controul. It is to be hoped, however, that time, the great physician of affliction, will shortly bring her ladyship relief; and till that happen, we must be satisfied with endeavouring to palliate the complaint.

When the evacuation, therefore, is immoderate, or returns too frequently, it will be proper to have recourse to opi-
ates,

ates, which afford the most effectual remedy in cases of irritation. Fifteen drops of laudanum, or more, as you find necessary, may be given at night in an antihysterical julep, and repeated occasionally. During the continuance of the discharge, her ladyship ought to lye in an horizontal posture, and be kept, as much as possible, from perturbation of every kind.

In the intervals of the complaint, her ladyship must use daily exercise, either in the carriage or on horseback. I would advise that his lordship should contrive some agreeable journey, in order to amuse her. In fact, it is on the return of her serenity of mind, and usual cheerfulness, that the radical cure of her ladyship's disorder, in my opinion, depends; and I entertain not the smallest doubt of her perfect recovery as soon as her grief is dissipated; provided that the violence and duration of that passion does not affect her constitution so

much as to render her susceptible afterwards of the slightest cause of irritation. That this may not be the case, I ardently hope; and am, &c.

C A S E XXI.

Of a Disorder of the Liver.

S I R,

I Understand from your representation, that Mrs. ----- was first seized with her complaint about the time when her monthly courses ceased, which happened a year ago. She is sensible of a little weight in the right hypochondrium, her complexion is become darker than usual, she is generally costive, and perceives somewhat of a bitterish taste in her mouth. I am of opinion, that her disorder is a schirrous obstruction in the liver, and owes its origin to the stoppage of the Menses, which is an accident that
often

often lays the foundation of various diseases in women of a full habit of body, as she appears to be.

Respecting the probable issue of her complaint, of which she is desirous to be informed, please to let her know, that though I will not flatter her with sanguine hopes of her being perfectly cured of her disorder, yet I am firmly persuaded, that under the influence of a proper regimen, it will never make any progress to a fatal effect; and she may live to a great age, notwithstanding the continuance of it.

It is so far fortunate in her case, that the palliative and radical method of cure coincide in several circumstances. You acted judiciously in advising venesection; and, as she is of a plethoric disposition, it may be proper to repeat the operation occasionally hereafter. I would recommend that she should take, twice a day, half a pint of a decoction of the

opening roots; and to obviate consti-
nens, as well as gently assist the resolu-
tion of the tumour, fifteen grains, or a
scruple, of the following pills every
other night, or as often as is requisite.

R. Pulv. rheil.
sapon. venet. ana, drachmas
duas, syr. violar. q. s. f. massa
pilularis, formand. in pl. grav.

With regard to diet, she ought to
avoid all meats that are difficult of dige-
stion; and, instead of malt liquor for
drink, I would recommend to her the
juice of a lemon, mixed with a quart of
water, and sweetened with sugar. Ex-
ercise on horseback will be highly ad-
vantagous; and if a radical cure can
be effected, it is my opinion that it
would be greatly promoted by the use of
Bath waters, of which she certainly
ought to make trial. I have known
them prove serviceable in such cases,
even when the disorder was of longer
standing.

As

As to the shifting pain in the upper part of her belly, it has no immediate connexion with the other complaint, and proceeds from flatulence occasioned by a deficiency of bile in the intestines. I have nothing farther to add, but that I am, &c.

your me, of the case of Miss
contains chiefly the following particu-
lars. That during five months past
her Menstrues have appeared in less quan-
tity, and are more irregular in their pe-
riods than usual. That she is troubled
with a cough and a quantity of breath-
ing, and spits up a frothy matter in
a considerable quantity. She is also very
much subject to wind in her stomach;
complains frequently of a pain in the
back part of her head, and a coldness of
her feet and hands. The tooth-ach
likewise greatly molests her; and from
these the former feels in the
left kidney, and along the course of the
artery, she is judged not to be free from

C A S E XXII.

*Of Obstructions of the Menfes, and
other Complaints.*

S I R,

TH E account with which you favour me, of the case of miss ----, contains chiefly the following particulars. That during five months past, her Menfes have appeared in less quantity, and are more irregular in their periods than usual. That she is troubled with a cough and difficulty of breathing, and spits up a thin frothy matter in a considerable quantity. She is also very much subject to wind in her stomach; complains frequently of a pain in the back part of her head, and a coldness of her feet and hands. The tooth-ach likewise greatly molests her; and from a severe pain she sometimes feels in the left kidney, and along the course of the ureter, she is judged not to be free from

a stone in these parts. The lady is about twenty-four years of age, of a full but flaccid habit of body.

The symptoms attending this case, however various they appear, are in my opinion, entirely of the hysterical kind.

That which may be reckoned of the most doubtful nature, is the pain of the kidney and ureter; and yet that it proceeds not from any stone, but is really a symptom of the hysteric disease, is evident to me from a circumstance you have mentioned in the narration, and of which I am much pleased that you have taken notice, as it affords room for confirming my idea of the nature of that complaint. The circumstance I allude to is, that you observed the pain of the kidney and ureter was exasperated by an injection. This would not have been the consequence, had there really been a stone in these parts. You may therefore desire the lady, on my authority,

thority, to be under no apprehension of that disease, the thought of which so much alarms her.

I do not learn from the account you have sent me, in what order the different complaints appeared; but it is of no moment in the method of cure, whether the obstruction of the Menfes was antecedent or posterior to the other symptoms, as the flaccid constitution of the patient renders the same medicine adviseable in the former which is chiefly useful for removing the other complaints. What I would recommend to the lady is, to take a glass of the following tincture every day at eleven o'clock in the forenoon and five in the afternoon; and four of the pills every night.

R. Rad. gentian. unciam unam,
cort. aurantior. uncias duas,
summit. centaure. min. semun-
ciam, sem. fenicul. dulc. drach-
mas duas, vini Lisbonens. lib.
duas.

duas. Infunde per quatuor seu
 sex dies, & colaturæ adde vin.
 chalybeat. uncias octo.

R. Extract. glycyrrhiza, gum.
 ammoniac. myrrh. aloes focot-
 rin. ana. drachmam unam, elix.
 proprietat. q. s. f. massa pilu-
 laris, ex cujus unaquaque drach.
 formentur pil. xii.

Along with the medicinal course, the
 lady ought to use exercise on horse-back,
 from which she may be assured of reap-
 ing considerable advantage. Should the
 cough not abate by these remedies, please
 to advise me of it; as in that case, it
 would require a more particular treat-
 ment, independent of the general indica-
 tions of cure, drawn from the assem-
 blage of all the symptoms. But I enter-
 tain no doubt of its yielding to the me-
 dicines prescribed. I am, &c.

Soon

Soon after beginning the use of these medicines the Catamenia returned to their usual course, and in less than three months all the symptoms disappeared.

C A S E XXIII.

Of a Palsy of the left Arm.

S I R,

FR O M the history of this case, I am fully convinced that the palsy with which Sir ---- is seized in his left arm, is chiefly the consequence of a retrocession of the eruption, to which it seems he has been liable since his fever in the month of August last; and not simply of the grief he has suffered for the unexpected death of his lady; though it is probable, that this latter circumstance, by weakening the force of the circulation, has proved the remote cause of the former. We must therefore endeavour all we can to solicit the return of the eruption.

eruption. The great anxiety under which he still labours, is extremely unfavourable for our purpose; and as, on that account, we cannot expect so much benefit from the use of cordial and perspirative medicines, as would otherwise accrue, it will be the more necessary that we insist on topical applications to the part. I would advise that the arm be rubbed frequently, and for a considerable time together, with a warm flannel cloth, charged with the fumes of Benzoin, Thus, and Olibanum; and that afterwards it be embrocated with some such mixture as the following,

R. Sp. vin. camphorat. uncias sex,
 ung. nervin. uncias duas, tinctur.
 cantharid. drach. duas.
 Misce.

When this process is completed, let the arm be wrapped up in flannel, charged likewise with the fumes above mentioned; or in a cataplasm of bread and milk,

milk, rendered acrid by the addition of mustard seeds : warm plasters may answer the same purpose. But should these not succeed, it would be proper to apply a large vesicatory.

In such cases I have often prescribed, with great advantage, a warm bath of aromatic and discutient materials; or ordered flannel cloths to be dipped in a decoction of that kind, to which was added some crude sal. Ammoniac, and brandy. The flannels being wrung out of this decoction, and applied warm to the body, never fail of promoting a derivation of the fluids towards the skin. The same effect may be produced, by giving some spirit of hartshorn in a dish of warm wine; and to forward such an operation, let me add, that I should be much inclined to the gentleman's taking a brisk vomit. A warm generous diet must be enjoined, with the liberal use of wine; as also exercise in the carriage, the inability of the arm rendering that on horse-back inconvenient.

To

To conclude: the grand indication in the present case is, to expel out of the habit the acrid matter which has fixed upon the nerves of the arm. For this purpose, all stimulating applications will be of service externally; and the propulsive power of the heart must be invigorated by the use of wine and cordial medicines. If these means should prove ineffectual, which I do not imagine, it would be adviseable for our patient to go to Bath. But I expect to hear from you before that point is determined. Pray recommend to his friends, to endeavour as much as possible to dissipate his grief; for serenity of mind is of the greatest consequence in the cure of all nervous disorders. I am, &c.

The extreme grief which this gentleman indulged resisting the milder applications, recourse was at length had to blisters, which effected a radical cure.

C A S E

C A S E XXIV.

Of the Fluor Albus.

S I R,

I Perfectly agree with you in opinion, that the occasional cause of the fluor albus in the honourable lady who is your patient, is an obstruction of the Menfes, under which it seems she has laboured for some months. I wish, however, that a relaxation of the uterine vessels in particular were the only cause to which we ought to ascribe the disorder. But it is evident that the lady has been in a very cachectic habit of body for some time; and this circumstance, I am afraid, will render the cure extremely tedious.

You acquaint me, that for almost three years she had been subject to a considerable discharge of phlegmatic matter from the lungs; but that this symptom has totally ceased since the appearance of
the

the fluor. I have had occasion to observe several instances of such a transmutation; and where it happens, we must be attentive to the prevention of the antecedent complaint, as well as the cure of the subsequent.

The first thing we are to endeavour is, to correct the lady's habit of body. For this purpose, we must begin by cleansing the stomach and bowels, which in all probability are loaded with viscid humours. I see no reason for declining to give a vomit, notwithstanding the recency of her former complaint in the breast; as there are not any symptoms which afford presumption of obstructions being formed in the lungs. I never think one vomit sufficient where the effects we expect from it depend not only on the evacuation produced by the emetic, but likewise its mechanical action; especially in the case of a patient to whom it would be improper to administer a vomit in a large dose. On this

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account,

account, I would recommend that the lady repeat the emetic two or three times at proper distances.

Aloetic purgatives are excellently adapted to the lady's situation, in respect both of her cachectic habit of body, and the disorders consequent to it. These I would propose giving once or twice, in a full dose, in order to cleanse the intestines; and afterwards in a smaller quantity occasionally, to act as a laxative, and slowly drain off the ferous humours, which are the cause and support of the disease.

While we endeavour to check the flux by promoting the intestinal discharge, we must also be particularly attentive to forward the digestions; as it is ultimately on the right performance of these that the alteration of the habit of body depends. For that purpose, I would prescribe the following tincture.

R.

R. Cort. Peruvian.

aurantior. ana uncias duas, vin.
 alb. Hispan. lib. duas. Infunde
 per quatrimum, & colatura adde
 vin. chalybeat. uncias octo.

The dose of this tincture is a glassful twice a day, to be taken when the stomach is most empty.

As to topical applications, they can be but of little advantage till towards the close of the cure; when the habit of body being corrected, the only particular indication is, to strengthen the vessels of the uterus. It is not in every case, however, that they can reach the seat of the disorder; nor do they promise to be attended with any benefit, except where the flux is occasioned by a relaxation of the excretories of the vagina.

In respect to diet, I can only advise the continuance of the same light and

temperate regimen which you have already prescribed for her. A decoction of the woods in lime water is an excellent medicated drink in cases of this kind, and I much approve the use of it in the manner you have directed. For drink at meals, however, I think there is nothing preferable, in the lady's case, to Pyrmont water.

Riding on horseback will be of great advantage in the cure; and I would propose that the lady should remove to a drier situation; for there is reason to think, that the moist atmosphere in the place where she resides has greatly contributed to produce her disorder; nor do I expect that it can be totally extirpated while that cause continues to act.

By persisting a few months in the method of cure which is prescribed; I make no doubt of the lady's recovering her former state of health; as the flux is accompanied with no acrimony, and
there

there are no symptoms of ulcers being formed in the uterus or vagina.

I am, &c.

C A S E XXIV.

Of a periodical Hæmoptoe.

Dear S I R,

I AM favoured with your account of lady ---- whose complaint is a Hæmoptoe, which has troubled her these four months at the periods of her natural evacuation. This disorder is evidently the consequence of a plethoric disposition, to which her ladyship much inclines.

The observation that her ladyship continues to have her menstrual discharge in much the same quantity as usual, does not affect, in my apprehension, the probability of the disorder being owing to the cause. I have af-

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signed.

signed. For as she has laid aside the use of a great part of the exercise which she was formerly wont to take, a greater accumulation of blood in the vessels must ensue, and that redundancy not being evacuated by a more copious flow of the catamenia, it has opened to itself a passage by a dilatation of some of the vessels in the lungs.

I am persuaded that we shall find this idea of the disorder confirmed by the method of cure. For obtaining that end, nothing more seems requisite than that her ladyship be blooded, and that she return to the use of her former exercise. I am of opinion that astringents are entirely superfluous in her case; and, without vanesection, might even prove hurtful; as they would endanger a rupture of the pulmonary vessels.

I say nothing of any regulations respecting diet, as I know her ladyship to be perfectly temperate in that article.

Please

Please to present my respects to her ladyship and Mrs. ----.

I am, &c.

By the means abovementioned, the return of the Hæmoptoe was entirely prevented.

C A S E XXVI.

Of a Phthisis Pulmonalis.

S I R,

FROM the symptom you have mentioned in relating the case of Lord —, it is beyond a question that his lordship labours under the Phthisis Pulmonalis. He has a constant quick pulse, attended with a frequent cough, by which he expectorates a very tough, slimy, yellow matter. He has likewise a constant tendency to purging, and sometimes to sweating. His appetite is gone, and he daily wastes in his flesh. You very properly prescribed for him

the pectoral decoction ; and on his cough not being mitigated by that remedy, had recourse to Laudanum.

You know how little we can do with certainty for the cure of the disease. The chief indications are, to support his lordship's strength, and correct the acrimony of the blood. Both these intentions will be answered by a milk diet, which, as being acescent, is opposed to putrefaction, as mild it does not stimulate, and it is also nourishing. I would advise persisting in the use of the pectoral decoction, and sometimes the infus. Lini, with liquorice, in order to heal the ulcer, and eradicate the cause of the febrile symptoms. His lordship's case has so great a similarity to that of Mr. ---- that I think it may be treated exactly in the same manner ; and were it not that he is so liable to the catarrh, which was originally the cause of the disease, I should entertain greater hopes of success than we can indulge on that consideration.

consideration. I approve of his lordship's wearing a flannel shirt, which I look upon as highly beneficial for supporting an equable perspiration. This is one of those cases in which the removal to a warm and dry air is of great advantage. If the disorder, therefore, should not abate very soon, a journey to the south of France, before the approach of the cold weather, would be highly adviseable.

I have not mentioned that his lordship ought to drink of the Bristol waters along with the milk, as, you may remember, was done in the case above spoken of. Proper exercise is an essential article, and I imagine it is already used by your direction. I have nothing more to add at present, than that

I am, &c.

By following these directions, and occasionally using the Lac Ammoniac, when expectoration was difficult, his
lordship

lordship gradually recovered his health ; and in two months after, set off for Montpellier, where he passed the winter without any return of his complaint.

C A S E XXVII.

Of a periodical Efflorescence of the right Arm.

S I R,

I H A V E been favoured with your letter containing the cases of two patients. The complaint of Miss ----- is, that she is seized with an efflorescence and fulness of the right arm, which gradually advance for about a week before the returns of her natural evacuation, and disappear in the same manner as that declines. She is of a sanguine habit of body, and was first attacked by these symptoms a few days preceding the first eruption of her Menfes.

I am

I am clearly of opinion that this complaint proceeds from a redundancy of blood, of which nature endeavours to relieve herself by protruding it upon the vessels which pass through the cellular membrane of the arm.

I can by no means accede to the proposal that has been made by Dr. ---- for preventing these periodical symptoms, by the topical application of astringents, and binding the arm in tight bandages. This is a method which might be attended with very great danger; for should we restrain the deposition of the blood upon that member, it is uncertain what other part of the body might not suffer from the experiment. A rupture of the pulmonary vessels, or some fatal accident, in all probability would ensue. The only method which, in my apprehension, can be adopted with safety and success, is, to bleed in the veins of the feet, as soon as the fluxion begins to appear upon the arm; so as to diminish
the

the extraordinary plethora, without checking the menstrual discharge.

Should the lady marry, and have children, it is not improbable that the symptoms will totally cease; as the vessels of the uterus being then accustomed to a greater degree of dilatation, they may yield more readily to the periodical flow of the Catamenia.

The complaint of this lady affords a strong argument in favour of the opinion, that the menstrual evacuation is the consequence, not of a fulness of the uterine vessels alone, but of a general plethora of the whole body.

I shall be glad to know the success of the method I have advised. Concerning the other patient I shall write you to-morrow, being at present obliged to go to Richmond. I am, &c.

On

On making trial of the method of cure above recommended, the lady's complaints were prevented from ever rising to their former degree.

C A S E XXVIII.

Of various Complaints attending the menstrual Discharge.

S I R,

Y O U inform me that Miss ----, a young lady about eighteen years of age, is seized, at every return of the Menfes, with violent pains of the back and belly, spasms, faintings, delirium, and sometimes convulsions. The discharge of the Catemenia is slow, and generally continues for five or six days.

The cause of these complaints is a tensity of the uterine vessels, whereby the blood not passing through them with sufficient facility, they are exposed to
painful

painful distension, which sympathetically affects the nervous system.

In such a situation, nothing is of greater advantage than the use of the Semicupium, which I have often recommended with extraordinary success. It is the practice of some physicians to order emmenagogic herbs to be boiled in the water employed for that purpose. But I totally disapprove of that method; as the effect of it is, to stimulate, and thereby increase the tenacity which is the original cause of the disorder. If any ingredients are made use of, they ought to be of the emollient kind.

For the same purpose, instead of the Semicupium, I sometimes advise the application of flannel cloths, wrung out of an emollient decoction, to the region of the uterus, which are to be renewed as soon as they become cold; ordering likewise a clyster of warm water,

ter, with which thirty or forty drops of Laudanum are mixed. When the patient is costive I usually prescribe a laxative clyster with some *Assa Foetida*, previous to that with the Laudanum.

In many cases I prescribe oily draughts to be taken internally, as tending greatly to produce the desired relaxation of the vessels; but as these perhaps might disagree with the lady's stomach, I shall not positively advise the use of them in the present case, till the topical applications have been tried, which I hope will prove highly advantageous.

The use of remedies must not be restricted solely to the periods of the menstrual evacuation, but even enjoined in the intervals, in order to facilitate the progress of the Catamenia at their next return. For answering this intention, I would recommend the frequent use of the Pediluvia, and that the lady should take pretty often a dose of the
 Pilulæ

Pilulæ Rufi ; as she may likewise of the oily draughts, provided that they fit easily on her stomach. Drawing some blood from the arm in the intervals of the flux, is also an expedient which, in my opinion, contributes to relax the vessels, and I would therefore recommend an occasional recourse to it in the case of this lady.

I hope these means will prove effectual for removing the complaint, and have only to add, that I am, &c.

C A S E

C A S E XXIX.

*Of Tumors of the Belly, accompanied
with a Fever.*

S I R,

THE account of the case of Mr. ----
being drawn up by the apothecary
during your indisposition, it will be pro-
per to mention the circumstances of
which I have been informed, that you
may judge of the exactness of the de-
scription.

The gentleman is said to be about
forty-seven years of age, of a phlegma-
tic constitution, and inclining to corpu-
lency. He has been accustomed to a
full diet, and a sedentary life. About
two years ago he first was sensible of a
small tumor of the belly, on the right
side of the navel, which was impercep-
tible to the eye, but could readily be
felt by pressing the hand upon the part.

H

It

It seemed to be pretty deeply seated, and at that time of the size of a common nut, though it is now considerably increased in bulk. Several other lesser tumors have lately been observed in different parts of the belly. They are in general indolent, or accompanied with little pain. For these three weeks past, the gentleman has complained of unusual thirst, his appetite is diminished, his tongue is whitish, and there is a perceptible degree of fever in his pulse. Sometimes he is inclined to a looseness, and at other times his urine deposits a small quantity of sediment, which has the appearance of purulent matter.

These are all the material circumstances mentioned in the recital of the case; and from the consideration of them, I am fully of opinion, that the gentleman's disorder is obstructions in the glands of the mesentery, of which one at least is at present in a state of suppuration. The apparent seat of the tumors,

the

the feverishness, and other symptoms, conspire to suggest this idea; besides its being favoured by the full diet, and inactive course of life that the gentleman has formerly led, which greatly dispose to produce obstructions of the abdominal viscera.

In regard to the issue of this disorder, it is extremely precarious. Being situated in a part to which no topical applications can be made, our utmost endeavours may prove ineffectual, either for cleansing or healing the ulcer. These, however, are intentions which we must if possible accomplish, though they are not the sole indications that arise from the nature of the disease. Besides attempting to heal the ulcerated parts, it will also be requisite that we endeavour to preserve from suppuration such tumors as have not hitherto arrived at that state.

Previous to entering upon the cure, it will be necessary that the gentleman be enjoined to observe a strict course of temperance, with the use of a mild and light diet; as the opposite regimen would not only increase the fever, but might produce fresh obstructions, and occasion the suppuration of all that are already formed. Milk, as being antiputrescent, and easy of digestion, ought to constitute the principal part of his food. He should also use moderate exercise on horseback or in a carriage, to resolve the viscosity of the fluids, and promote a free circulation through the viscera of the abdomen.

If the fever be high, or fresh pains should afford room to suspect that any of the tumors was in a state of inflammation, it would be proper to draw a little blood from the arm, in order to mitigate these symptoms.

The

The only medicines that promise assistance in this case are the saline draughts; which may prove beneficial not only by allaying the fever, and gently acting upon the obstructions, but also by increasing the urinary secretion, and thereby discharging the purulent matter which is absorbed from the ulcers. To these a little nitre may be added, if the inflammatory symptoms are considerable.

I know nothing that is more likely to be of advantage in the gentleman's situation than the use of goat whey, which, from the opening and deterfive qualities it possesses, is admirably adapted to the cure of all visceral obstructions or ulcers. The season of it is just approaching, and I would advise his taking the benefit of it immediately. When the time of using it is over, it would be highly proper that the gentleman should take a journey to the southern climates.

I have known a cure performed in several cases, by the patient's travelling to Naples. The air of Portugal, and Montpelier has produced the same effects. The languid viscosity, and acrimony of the fluids, which prove the cause of such disorders, are never so successfully corrected as by the assistance of a dry and moderately warm air.

After what has been mentioned, I shall only recommend, that the gentleman take three or four times a day half a pint of a decoction made of the opening roots of some of the vulnerary plants, to which, if requisite, a little nitre might also be added.

I am, &c.

The gentleman recovered of his disorder, and, to prevent its returning, was afterwards advised to the free use of exercise, and a temperate diet; avoiding viscid aliments and malt liquors, instead
of

of the last of which, wine and water was recommended for his drink.

C A S E XXX.

Of a Diarrhœa.

S I R,

I H A V E unfortunately mislaid the account you sent me of the case of Sir ---- which I received last night. But if I am not mistaken, the circumstances it contained were as follow.

That for a fortnight past, he has laboured under a troublesome diarrhœa, which generally increases towards the evening. It is accompanied with borvorygmi, and shifting pains of the belly. His appetite is languid, he frequently complains of thirst, his pulse is unusually quick, he has often a head-ach soon after eating, his tongue is whitish, the matter discharged by stool is thin and

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frothy,

frothy, and his urine is in small quantity, and high coloured.

You informed me in your letter, that the catarrh and sore throat have for these two months been very endemic in your part of the country, as they also have in town. This is, in my opinion, a very material circumstance for elucidating the nature of Sir ----'s disorder; which I take to be nothing else than a critical evacuation by the intestines, of the acrid perspirable matter, which, in other patients, has generally seized the trochea and larynx. The circumstances you mention, of his skin being dry, and feet often cold, without any concomitant symptom that relates to the hypochondriac complaint, as far as I find, seem clearly to evince that his disease is of a catarrhus original; for I have observed those symptoms in most of the patients who have been under my care in the present influenza.

Why

Why the state of the air, which has in others so generally occasioned a catarrh and sore throat, should produce in Sir ---- a fluxion on the intestines, is to be accounted for only upon the principle of idiosyncrasy. But I think you mention that he formerly had a dysentery, and is now apprehensive of a return of that disorder. Such an apprehension is certainly not without ground; for there is reason to infer from his history, that he labours under a weakness of the bowels. It is so far fortunate, however, that no dysenteric symptom has appeared as yet in his present illness: and I am pretty confident, that by the method of cure we shall follow, the disease will be prevented from arriving at that termination.

For curing this complaint, we must attend to two indications. One is, to guard the intestines from the acrimony of the humours which flow upon them; and

and the other is, to divert the course of the fluxion. The first of these intentions will be answered by the use of a mild and mucilaginous diet, which, by sheathing the coats of the intestines, may prevent their vessels from being eroded; such, for instance, as soft, lubricating broths made of veal or mutton. Marshmallow or linseed tea will likewise be serviceable for the same end. Should the purging continue, it would be proper to administer some of these by way of clyster, along with restraining ingredients, to prevent any symptoms of a dysentery. I have no doubt, however, but that disorder will be entirely obviated, and the present complaint cured, by prosecuting the indication we are next to pursue; which is to divert the course of the fluxion.

The remarkable connection between the intestines and skin, as well as the cause of the present disorder, which appears to be a retention of the perspirable matter,

matter point out to us that the method of fulfilling this intention must be, by increasing the cuticular discharge, and so making a derivation from the internal parts. We shall find a vomit of great advantage for this purpose. Let Sir ----, therefore, take a scruple of the powder of ipocacuanha, or a proportional dose of the tincture, at night; and, after the operation of it is over, the following draught.

R. Aq. cinnamom. f. v. fescunciam, sp. minderer. drachmas duas, laudan. liquid. gut. quindecim, diacod. drachmas duas; misce.

This will probably produce a diaphoresis, and abate the diarrhæa. But should it not succeed, we must still persevere in using a perspirative course, and, in order to facilitate the cure, the vomit may be occasionally repeated. Juleps, or draughts, similar to that above prescribed, must also be freely taken; the
dose

dose of the laudanum being regulated, both in quantity and frequency, by the effects which are produced.

The operation of these medicines will be greatly promoted by drinking of warm diluting liquors; as tea, coffee, sage-tea, &c. sack-whey will likewise be highly serviceable, taken in such a quantity as the pulse will admit.

Bathing the feet frequently in warm water, or, when they are cold, applying warm bricks to the soles, will be of exceeding great service in removing the spasm from the skin, and facilitating the eruption of a diaphoresis. In some cases of the same kind, I have advised the use even of the semicupium with much advantage.

During the continuance of the disorder, it would be adviseable that Sir ----- lye in flannel. I have now mentioned all that seems necessary, and shall conclude

conclude with expressing my expectation that the use of these means will be attended with the most salutary effect.

I am, &c.

C A S E XXXI.

Of an obstinate Ague.

Dear S I R,

I N regard to lord ---'s intermitting fever which proves so obstinate, you have so far exhausted the method of cure, that there is scarce room left for suggesting any other expedient. You have used every proper evacuation with judgment. You have enjoined a good regimen. You prescribed the bark at a proper time, and the use of it has now been persisted in for almost a whole month. You have even endeavoured to promote the efficacy of that febrifuge by joining bitters and chalybeates along with it. Nor have you neglected the trial of alum and nutmegs,

&c.

&c. The cold bath you rightly judge unadvisable on account of the weakness of his lordship's lungs. What can be added to so large a list of resources ; or to what cause shall we impute the failure of so powerful medicines as those which have been prescribed ? shall we say that the bark which his lordship has taken, has not been of a good kind ? This certainly is too often the case ; but perhaps the same kind of bark has been successfully administered to other patients in the intermitting fever.

We cannot, in my opinion, impute the obstinacy of his lordship's complaint to any other cause, than its being firmly rivetted in the constitution. Now it is generally imagined, that intermitting fevers have their origin in visceral obstructions. I should therefore be induced to think, that, in his lordship's case, the obstructions are more than usually fixed. To what method of cure will this idea of the disorder conduct us ? to the same,

as I conceive, which is used in the quartan fever, where it is admitted that the bowels are much obstructed. My opinion is, in short, that we must have recourse to deobstruent medicines for the radical cure of the disease. In a quartan fever, mercury is found to be of the greatest advantage; and I can see no reason why we ought not to try it in the present case. Let me, therefore, advise the expedient.*

His lordship must continue to follow the regimen you prescribed, using Pyrmont water for drink. I would recommend the use of a flannel shirt, and that our noble patient should try the effects of travelling into a warmer climate, which will certainly prove highly advantageous. Dr. Mead lately obliged me, by presenting

* In the second volume of the Medical Transactions, an instance is related by Dr. D. Monro, of an ague, which had resisted every remedy, being readily cured by the bark, after an accidental salivation from mercury.

ing my compliments to you, and I now have the pleasure of returning the obligation, at his request. Accept therefore of our united offers, believe me to be, &c.

His lordship could not be prevailed with to try the effects of mercury, on account of an aversion which he had contracted to that medicine some years before. But by following the dietifical rules which had been prescribed; by perseverance for a longer time in the use of Peruvian bark, which was sent him from town, mixed with crude sal ammoniac; and by travelling abroad, he recovered of his intermittent fever, and his constitution was strengthened.

C A S E

C A S E XXXII.

Of a Jaundice.

S I R,

I AM just now favoured with your account of farmer ---- whose disease is the jaundice. His case affords a remarkable instance of the unsuccessfulness which must necessarily attend every method of cure that is not founded upon just indications. Because in a jaundice, which it appears he had about four years ago, he was advised to the use of laudanum and the warm bath, and experienced great benefit from them, he rashly inferred that the same remedies must be proper in a disease of a similar appearance. It is evident from the Juvantia as well as from the observation of his having passed

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gall -

gall-stones, that his disorder formerly was owing to biliary concretions in the ducts. But the cause of his present complaint I apprehend to be totally different. Before the disease appeared externally, he complained of great anxiety in the region of the liver, nausea, vomiting, and sickness. He felt no pain, however, at the pit of the stomach, nor was sensible of any unusual heat and thirst; absence of which symptoms affords sufficient proof, that his disorder proceeds not from any concretion in the biliary ducts. The real cause of his jaundice is a viscidty of the bile, whereby the capillary vessels of the liver are obstructed. Too glutinous a consistence of that liquor is not uncommon in persons of a gross and corpulent habit of body, as he is represented to be. For in people of such a constitution, the fluids abound with many oily particles, which are much disposed to stagnate in the small vessels, where the circulation is slow.

As there appears to be no inflammation of the liver in this patient's case, and his disorder is recent, I entertain not the smallest doubt of his recovery.

If his pulse is full, some blood must be drawn from the arm, to diminish the plethora. This operation will not only abate the oppression he feels on the liver, but render the future action of an emetic more safe, and make room for diluting liquors.

As a vomit, in the jaundice, I generally prescribe the oxymel scilliticum, on account of its effect in attenuating the phlegmatic humours, which abound in the stomach and bowels when the secretion of the bile is interrupted. Besides cleansing the stomach, and by that means preventing the farther accession of glutinous humours to the blood, through the channel of the chylopoietic organs, a vomit greatly contributes, by

its action, to attenuate the general viscosity of the fluids, and propel the sluggish bile in the capillary vessels of the liver. When the jaundice is obstinate, much of the cure depends upon the occasional repetition of emetics.

After a vomit our patient must enter upon purgatives; of which, likewise, those of the attenuating kind are most proper. I generally make use of the aloetics, and chiefly the tinctura sacra, though I have no objection to rhubarb. Let Mr. ---- therefore take a full dose of either of these cathartics; and if the latter be preferred, it would be very advisable to join with it a few grains of calomel. The purges in this case have the same beneficial effects with a vomit, as far as regards the evacuation of the viscid humours; besides that so much of them as may be absorbed into the blood, will act in attenuating the glutinous consistence of the fluids.

The

The use of purgatives is particularly indicated in this disease; because the bile not passing into the intestines, to forward their peristaltic motion, it is necessary that they be excited to the performance of their natural functions by means of other stimulating substances.

After premising the above evacuations, I would advise that the patient should take four of the following pills three times a day.

R. Sapon. venet. drachmas duas,
gum. ammoniac. Tartar. re-
generat. Aloes Socotrin. ana
drach. unam, ol. juniper. gut.
x. syr. e cort. aurant. q. s. f.
massa pilul. ex cujus unaquaque
drach. formentur pil. duode-
cim.

The use of these medicines, I hope, will cure his disorder in a short time; but he must abstain from the warm bath, and laudanum, as being wholly unsuitable in his case.

I am, &c.

C A S E XXXIII.

Of the Rheumatism.

S I R,

THE disorder of Mr. ---- is evidently an acute rheumatism, and will require to be treated by the antiphlogistic method. You have very properly advised bleeding, and the use of gentle cathartics; both which it may perhaps be necessary to repeat. I would recommend the following draught to be taken every fifth or sixth hour.

R.

R. Julep e camphor. aq. fontan.
 ana unciam unam, vin. anti-
 mon. drach. unam, nitri gr.
 xv. sp. nitri dulc. gut. xxx.
 misce.

If the violence of the pain prevents sleep, it will be adviseable to mix a proper quantity of an opiate with the dose to be taken at bed-time; and if the pained parts are tumified, leeches should be applied, as also discutient cataplasms. What we generally use for this purpose, is rye or oat-meal, made up with the lees of old malt liquor and common salt.

We frequently observe, that after the acute rheumatism has continued for some days, it assumes the appearance of an intermittent. When this happens, the bark ought to be immediately given. I would not delay the use of that remedy, however, till the disease has quite changed its type; for if we discover any
 I 4 signs

signs of the humours being concocted, such as a sediment in the urine, and the breaking forth of sweats, we may safely have recourse to the febrifuge; and in this situation I always find it greatly shorten the continuance of the disorder, especially during the prevalence of a moist disposition of the air. In the mean time, it will be absolutely necessary that the gentleman make use of a low diet.

I am, &c.

CASE

CASE XXXIV.

Of an Epilepsy.

S I R,

I HAVE considered the case of the young gentleman, whose disorder is the Epilepsy; and if in any disease it is necessary to attend minutely to the history of the patient, it is certainly in complaints of that kind. I have known few cases more accurately drawn up than what you have now favoured me with; though I must acknowledge at the same time, that it is not sufficient to afford all the satisfaction I should desire in respect to the cause of the disease. But this must be charged to a defect of the science, and not of your observation.

This young gentleman, it seems, is near to twelve years of age, of a healthy constitution,

constitution, though somewhat delicate, and born of parents who have lived pretty free from any nervous complaint. He had been subject to a cutaneous eruption about five years, which disappeared eight months ago, when he lived at Naples with his father. Since his return to Britain he has had the small-pox, which proved to be of the confluent kind; and though it would appear that he had been treated with sufficient judgment in that disorder, he has, from the time it left him, frequently complained of sharp pains in his bowels, to which he was formerly not subject.

As these pains were attended with other symptoms that are commonly excited by worms, it was very natural for you to imagine that they proceeded entirely from that cause; but after persevering three months, without success, in the use of anthelmintic remedies, I think there is strong ground for suspecting a different origin of the complaint.

My

My opinion is, that the epileptic fits with which the young gentleman is afflicted, are occasioned by an acrimony of blood, which irritates the nerves to convulsive motions. This acrimony seems to have been natural to his constitution for some years, from the eruptions to which he formerly was liable. Why these totally disappeared while he was at Naples, may be accounted for from the warmth of that climate, which proves so favourable in all disorders proceeding from a deficiency of perspiration.

It may be asked, that if the young gentleman's blood continues still to be tainted with an acrimonious quality, why do not the eruptions which were formerly habitual to him again resume their appearance? This objection must certainly be allowed to have some force, though not sufficient to overthrow the opinion. For we find from daily experience, that an acrimony of the fluids is not always accompanied with visible external

eternal indications. How often do we observe scorbutic persons entirely free from eruptive complaints, while, at the same time, their blood is highly contaminated with a sharp and putrid taint?

It may likewise be asked, that were an acrimony of the fluids really the cause of the disorder, why should the Epilepsy ever have any intermissions? To this objection I shall only reply, that the limits of human knowledge do not permit us to account in a satisfactory manner for all the various circumstances of diseases. In judging of the nature of disorders which are not evident to the senses, our opinions must be guided by the degree of probability; and should we never venture to prescribe without a perfect knowledge of the cause of every malady, the science of medicine would become almost totally useless. But to return from this digression: the method of cure must, in my opinion, be conducted upon the idea of an
acrimonious

acrimonious quality of the blood being the cause of the disease. It would be unnecessary to mention the treatment of the patient in the fits of the Epilepsy, as that must be the same which is usual in all other cases of the kind. I shall therefore confine myself to point out the medicinal course that to me appears the most proper for preventing the return of the disease.

In conformity to the opinion I entertain of the cause of this obscure disorder, the object we have to pursue in the prophylactic method of cure is, to correct the bad quality of the blood. This general indication includes two others; which are, to promote the digestions and discharges.

To answer the first of these intentions, the use of stomachic medicines will be proper; and among these the Peruvian bark ought to have a principal place, as not only being an excellent bitter,

bitter, but as it also strengthens a weakly habit of body, and, by that means promotes the regular exercise of all the functions of the animal economy.

With respect to the discharges, those by the skin and intestines are what we have chiefly to attend to; for the urinary excretion is seldom deficient, except in dropsies, or diseases where the kidneys are affected.

For supporting the intestinal discharge, when the patient is bound in his belly, I would advise that he take occasionally some gentle lenative. A drachm of Sal Polychrest, dissolved in warm water, and taken in the morning, will answer the purpose exceeding well. Or a spoonful of the bitter tincture of rhubarb, taken at night, may serve the same end.

Toward maintaining the perspiration in a regular course, a light diet, with proper

proper drink, and exercise, will in a great measure supply the use of medicine. The young gentleman must avoid all salted, indigestible, or acrid food, and use the Decoct. Lignor. for common drink.

He ought to guard against cold by warm cloathing, and be particularly careful of being wet. I am of opinion that a warm and dry air would be of great advantage, in his disorder.

Besides the means above mentioned, the use of Scarborough water would be adviseable, for depurating his blood the more effectually.

I should be happy to find that the course I have recommended had proved successful; but should our endeavours not produce the desired effect, there is still room to hope, that at the age of puberty, when the constitution is invigorated, the young gentleman may ever afterwards

afterwards be entirely absolved from his complaint. That this may prove the case I earnestly wish.

And am, &c.

Though the epileptic fits had formerly been frequent, and generally pretty severe, yet by persisting for some months in the course above prescribed, the young gentleman had only three slight paroxysms from the time he entered upon the regimen. I have met with a few other cases of the same kind.

CASE

C A S E XXXV.

Of a Rheumatism.

S I R,

I T gives me great pleasure to be informed of the perfect recovery of our patient in the acute rheumatism; and I hope we shall have the same success in respect to the gentleman of whom you now write me, whose complaint is that of the chronic kind.

There is very little difference between the treatment of these two species of rheumatism, except in the article of bleeding, and the antiphlogystic method; and as to bleeding, it is frequently useful in the chronic rheumatism also, where the disorder has not been of long standing, and the pains are severe. As to the expediency of that operation, therefore, I leave you entirely to determine, who have the opportunity

K

portunity of observing how much the gentleman's pulse is affected by the disease.

I would advise that the diaphoretic draughts, of the julep. e camphor. &c. * which were prescribed for M. ---- may also be administered in the present case; and I think that it would be of great advantage to mix some of the gum guaiac. along with them; for it is an excellent attenuating diaphoretic in that disorder. When the pain is violent, an opiate ought to be given at bed-time, and may be conveniently joined to the draughts.

Dry frictions, warm saponaceous liniments or plasters, and blisters, applied to the pained part, I have always found to be of great benefit in the chronic rheumatism; and where the disease has become habitual from a weakness of perspiration,

* See Case xxxiii.

perspiration, I have ordered the use of a flannel shirt with remarkable advantage. I am of opinion that this is greatly the case with our present patient, and that the expedient would therefore be advisable.

I would likewise recommend that he enter on a course of the Peruvian bark, to which a little of the powder of guaiac may be added. It will brace his relaxed fibres, and promote perspiration, a defect of which is the essential cause of the disease. Nor is any thing more effectual for these purposes than the cold-bath. Let him, for these two months to come, make use of the bark and guaiac; and he may then, through the summer, substitute the cold bath in their place. As he has been already enjoined a proper regimen in diet and exercise, I have nothing to add on these subjects. The circumstance you mentioned, however, of his being accustomed to walk out early in the mornings, even when

the ground is wet, deserves particular attention; for such a practice is extremely injurious to rheumatic people. I recommend to you, therefore, to dissuade him from it.

And am, &c.

CASE XXXVI.

Of a Tympany.

S I R,

I HAVE received your information relative to the case of Mrs.----who has lately had a tertian fever, and is now apprehensive that she is fallen into a dropsy. Be pleased to assure her, that her complaint is nothing of that kind. An ascites always advances gradually, and never without a remarkable diminution of the natural quantity of urine. In that disorder, there is also a great weight felt in the belly, attended with a perceptible fluctuation when the person is moved in bed. Now, of none of these symptoms does

does she complain. Neither did the swelling of her belly advance slowly but suddenly, after taking several doses of the bark to remove the intermittent.

The complaint with which the lady is attacked, is a tympany; which I have several times observed to succeed an intermitting fever, where the bark has been prematurely administered, without sufficient evacuations: and the same is undoubtedly the cause of it in the present case.

When this flatulent distention has continued long, I have found it very difficult to discuss; but as in this lady the disorder is recent, there is reason to hope that we shall be able to restore the bowels to their former tone, and thereby remove the complaint.

Were the tympany accompanied with a fever, it would be proper to bleed: but as you inform me that Mrs. ---- is totally free

from that symptom, it will be sufficient in the present case to prosecute the other indications of cure. These are, to keep the belly open by laxatives, and expel the flatulence by carminatives.

For answering the first of these intentions, I would recommend the use of rhubarb, as partaking of a strengthening quality; and I think that, in this case, the powder is preferable to any preparation of it, by having the greatest chance of being carried into the colon, which is the principal seat of the complaint. Eight or ten grains taken morning or evening daily may answer the purpose; though I have sometimes been obliged either to increase the dose, or order it to be taken twice a day, when by the use of carminatives the body would otherwise have been rendered costive. The carminatives I would use are the following.

R.

R. Rad. calam. aromatic. zingib.
 nuc. moschat. ana, drach. un-
 am, f. pulvis.

Five or six grains of this powder may be taken two or three times a day; and it would be adviseable that the patient should also take pretty frequently a dish of camomile tea, which will tend much to relax the spasms of the bowels. A small quantity of juniper berries may be advantageously infused along with the camomile flowers.

If these internal remedies prove ineffectual, it would be proper to have recourse to the cold bath. In the mean time the lady must use exercise on horseback, and avoid all flatulent aliments.

I am, &c.

By the use of these means the lady recovered in about three weeks, and afterwards drank of a chalybeate water, to prevent the return of the complaint.

C A S E XXXVII.

Of a Quartan Fever.

S I R,

I AM very apprehensive that the quartan, with which the schoolmaster is seized, may terminate in a dropsy. For in persons of a sedentary way of life, I have generally found it to be attended with incurable obstructions of the bowels. He must not be indulged in taking the bark as soon as he desires. Deobstruent medicines are previously to be given. I would recommend the following.

R. Sapon. Venet. drach. duas,
 gum. ammoniac. galban. tar-
 tar. regenerat. ana drach. u-
 nam, calomel. scrup. unum. fyr.
 e cort. aurant. q. f. f. massa
 pilularis. Capiat æger quatuor
 vel quinq. bis in die.

I would

I would also have the patient take five or six spoonfuls of the Infus. Amarum twice a day. The vomit may be once or twice repeated; and it will be proper that he take, occasionally, as much of the Tinctura Sacra as keeps his belly open. He must by all means use exercise on the intermediate days of the disease. Before the bark be administered, let him continue the use of these medicines a few weeks, if his strength will permit.

In point of diet I have nothing particular to enjoin, but that he avoid the use of viscid aliments. Malt liquors are improper for his drink; and in place of them I would recommend wine and water.

I am, &c.

C A S E

C A S E XXXVIII.

Of a Dropsy.

S I R,

I AM sorry to understand by your letter of Monday last, that my apprehension in regard to the poor schoolmaster is but too much verified. There is no doubt that his ascites proceeds from obstructions of the bowels; and these, I am afraid, are irrefolveable. This being the case, I have no hope that tapping will be of any farther service than by occasionally relieving him from his complaint. While the cause remains, the disorder will never cease to return. Before recourse be had to the operation, it will be proper to try the effect of diuretic and purgative remedies. As his strength is considerably reduced, I am not satisfied that the latter is adviseable; and it is my opinion, therefore, that the cure ought to be trusted to diuretics only.

only. Of that class of remedies, I know nothing better than the oxymel. scillitic. given in plain cinnamon water, to which a little of the compound may be added. The quantity of the oxymel may be half a drachm twice a day, or more if the stomach will bear it.

While he uses the oxymel, he ought not to discontinue the medicines which were formerly prescribed. For unless the obstructions of the bowels be removed, we never can expect a radical cure of the ascites. It is unnecessary to mention, that he must be sparing of liquids in his diet. His situation is exceeding dangerous, and I am afraid will baffle all our endeavours. I shall be anxious to know the issue of the good man's case.

And am, &c.

The diuretic medicines, though they somewhat increased the quantity of the patient's water, did not relieve his complaint.

plaint. The low state he was in rendered the use of purgatives improper. He was once tapped; but in ten weeks after, his belly swelled to its former size. He would not submit to the operation again, and soon died.

C A S E XXXIX.

Of the Rickets.

M A D A M,

I A M honoured with your ladyship's letter in regard to the children. From what your ladyship mentions, it appears that in master, at least, some of the symptoms of the rickets are visible. But as the disorder has made so little progress, it may very soon be perfectly cured.

It will be proper that master take a gentle vomit of a few grains of ipocacuanha. Five, I imagine, will be sufficient for the purpose. After this, I would

would give him ten grains of rhubarb once in the five or six days, if he can be prevailed with to take it. If not, a more palatable phyfic must be contrived for him, which may be made in the following manner. I must beg leave to write the perscription for the apothecary.

R. Mannæ opt. drach. sex. cremor. tartar. gr. decem. aq. fontan. secunciam, menthæ com. drach. duas, syr. rosar. damascen. drach. unam. Misce.

On the day, betwixt the phyfic, he must take some strengthening medicine. The Peruvian bark, which your ladyship had occasion to make use of some time ago, is excellent for the purpose; and if master has nothing of feverishness about him, of which the apothecary must judge, it will be very proper that he take some steel medicine along with it. I shall write this prescription likewise

wise for the apothecary, who can explain it to your ladyship, if desired.

R. Cort. Peruvian. fescunciam, aurantior. femunciam, fem. coriand. drach. unam, vini Lisbonens. lib. duas; infunde per quatuor dies, & colaturæ adde vini chalybeat. uncias quatuor.

Of this tincture, let master take two table spoonfuls twice every day; about eleven o' clock in the morning, and five in the afternoon.

As the disease is not far advanced, I expect that it will be entirely removed by these means; but if it should not yield within these two months, I would propose that master should then be dipped in cold water every morning. The warm season of the year will be favourable for the purpose, and your ladyship need be under no apprehension of any bad consequences from it. There is nothing

nothing more effectual, either for curing the rickets or strengthening the constitution. On coming out of the bath, he ought to be well dried; and it would be proper, that for a week or two, from the time he begins to use the bath, he should be put to bed immediately after, and continue for an hour, or somewhat more, in order to encourage perspiration,

Though it may be superfluous, it is proper I should inform your ladyship, that the apartment in which master lays ought to be entirely free from all damp. The uppermost floor in the house is always the fittest for the nursery.

When he is put to bed at night, it would be of service that he were rubbed for some time, at least his limbs, with a warm flannel cloth, that has been held over a sufficient quantity of the vapour of the following substances, while they

are

are burning on a shovel. I still write
for the apothecary.

R. Gum. benzoin.

Oliban.

Myrrh.

Thur. ana, unciam unam. Misce.

It is of great consequence that he
use exercise daily; and as he is rather
too young to sit on horseback, a carriage
must be employed for the purpose. His
diet ought to consist of the lighter kinds
of meat; and I would have him en-
tirely restricted from soups, buttery
sauces, and pastry-work. The most
proper drink for him is wine and wa-
ter.

The disorder is not so far advanced as
to require any external applications, and
I have therefore nothing to say on that
subject, but that great care must be
taken that his linnen and sheets be
always perfectly dry. When these
are renewed, however, it would be
very.

very proper to impregnate them with the vapours which have been mentioned above. Were the nurse ordered to strew the leaves of some of the sweet herbs in the drawers with his linen, even that expedient would be of advantage.

By following these injunctions there is not the smallest doubt but that Master will very soon recover of his present disposition to the rickets. Let me warmly recommend to your ladyship that he use the cold bath, as soon as the weather becomes pretty mild; and if the other young gentleman be also submitted to a course of bathing for some time, the disorder will be entirely prevented from ever affecting him.

I beg leave to offer my humble respects to his lordship, and have the honour to be, &c.

L S A C E

C A S E XL.

Of a Retention of Urine.

S I R,

I H A V E this moment received yours by express, and in regard to Mr. ----- I think his situation highly dangerous. You inform me, that on his being probed by the surgeon, in order to draw off his urine, which has been voided with great difficulty for some time, and is now almost totally obstructed, an unsurmountable obstacle was found at the neck of the bladder, supposed to be a tumefaction of the prostate gland. What, you ask me, shall be done, to procure him immediate relief? I profess, I am of opinion that his case is beyond the power of medicine. If the disorder was an inflammation, we might entertain some hopes of its being brought to a favourable issue. But there is not any symptom that can induce us to form

form such an idea of the disease. It is in all probability a schirrous tumor, occasioned by the venereal disorder, under which you say, he lately laboured. We cannot expect, therefore, that it should be speedily cured, if indeed it be possible that it ever will. To produce that effect, the operation of remedies would require a considerable time; but his case can admit of no delay. There is no other resource in my opinion, than tapping at the perinæum, and I think the operation ought to be performed immediately. The remedy is, no doubt, hazardous, but it seems to me to be the only expedient that is practicable, and unless it be attempted, the event will certainly prove fatal. I am extremely sorry that I am not authorized to give a more favourable prognostic. My sincerest sympathy waits on the gentleman.

Believe me to be, &c.

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The patient would not submit to the operation, and died in convulsions, in less than twenty-four hours after the return of the messenger.

C A S E XLI.

Of a Hemicrania.

Dear S I R,

I AM favoured with your account of the farmer's wife, who has for six months past been troubled with a severe Hemicrania. I know not any chronic disorder more obstinate than that complaint. It even exceeds the sciatica. You certainly judged right in beginning the cure with a vomit, as a foulness of the stomach is frequently the cause of head-achs, and it is of the greatest consequence, in all lingering complaints especially, that the primæ viæ be preserved

served free from impurities. It would seem to be pretty evident, however, that in this patient the disorder proceeds not from that origin. For, were the case really so, it is probable that the pain would have abated by the use of emetics.

In attempting the cure of any disorder, the cause of which is involved in obscurity, it was very wisely advised by a great physician, that we should consider in our minds the various causes from which the complaint can arise, and endeavour to ascertain from the history and constitution of the patient, the cause of each particular malady. I have no doubt but you would be satisfied with my general opinion respecting the case before us; but as I wish to place the matter in the clearest light, let us enquire with some attention into the several causes that are reputed to be productive of head-achs; for these and the Hemicrania differ only in local distinction.

One of the general causes, namely, a foulness of the stomach, I have already mentioned, and shall therefore pass to the rest. These may be comprehended under plethora, a rarefaction of the blood, inflammation, nervous, intermittent or periodical affection, the venereal taint, and rheumatism.

From the account you give of our patient, there is no reason to suspect that any of the three first of these causes is necessary to the production of the complaint; for her pulse is neither unusually quick nor full, and she has her catamenia regularly.

You inform me that you have prescribed the gum pills, and other hysteric remedies, upon the supposition that the disorder proceeded from a nervous affection. I approve of your conduct in that point. But from the quantity of these medicines she has taken, without any effect, and the absence of all other

nervous

nervous symptoms, there is reason to conclude, that her complaint is the offspring of another cause.

The next cause I mentioned in order, was that of an intermittent or periodical kind; and from this, also, the continual duration, and equable degree of the pain, seem justly to remove our suspicion.

As to the venereal taint, I know not whether you have questioned her husband. The interrogation would certainly not be improper. In town, I often suspect complaints of this kind to be occasioned by a venereal cause, and generally find my conjecture confirmed by the method of cure. But in the present case, it is more likely to be otherwise.

The rheumatism is the last of the general causes which I mentioned as productive of the Hemicrania, and is

also the source to which I am inclined to ascribe the complaint of our patient. I own, that in this case my opinion is chiefly supported by the apparent improbability of the influence of any of the other causes. For you do not mention that ever she was subject to any rheumatic disorder; the certainty of which would add some weight to my conclusion. In searching for the origin of obscure complaints, however, we often must be satisfied with resting our opinion on the most plausible foundation, without being too scrupulous in regard to the solution of every pathological difficulty.

Admitting the disorder to be of the rheumatic kind, the seat of it ought next to be ascertained. The left side of the head is the part affected; but whether the disorder be in the membranes within the cranium, the bones, or in the integuments, is a point of which we are not certain. For I do not consider the absence

sence of pain, on touching that part of the head, as a sure criterion of the complaint being situated internally. The knowledge of that circumstance, however, though it might somewhat affect our prognostic, could scarcely occasion any variation in the method of cure, which, in my opinion, ought to be conducted in the following manner.

- As the patient is not plethoric, bleeding in the arm may be omitted; though indeed I should still think it advisable to draw eight or ten ounces from that part. I would afterwards apply leeches to the side of the head affected.

It is proper that a purge be given once a week for two or three times at least, and that calomel be joined to it. Afterwards, if the patient be costive, she ought to use some laxative occasionally.

When

- When these general evacuations have been premised, I would propose that the patient's hair should be cut off, and a warm plaster applied to the side of the head which is affected. The gum plaster, with a fifth or sixth part of the epispaſtic, may answer the purpose. This plaster must be worn for a considerable time. I have frequently observed great benefit from such an application. When the hair is cut off, the patient must use a flannel cap.

This disorder is one of those in which there is little advantage from internal remedies. But it is proper that some of them should be tried, and I would chiefly advise the use of the julep e camphor. with some antimonial wine.

The gentlewoman ought frequently to bathe her feet in warm water at night. She must guard against catching cold, particularly

particularly in her head. It will be proper that she avoid viscid aliments; and should she make daily use of the decoction of lignor. I would expect some advantage from it. Nothing farther occurs to me to write you of at present, but that

I am, &c.

CASE

C A S E XLIP.

Of the Chlorosis.

S I R,

FROM all the symptoms you mention, I am fully convinced that the disorder of Miss ----- is the chlorosis. She has in the first place, the pale cast of the countenance from which that disorder is denominated. She has also frequent heart-burns, with sometimes a nausea and vomiting, and her appetite is depraved. Besides these symptoms, which are characteristic of the disease, and others that you have enumerated, she is sensible of great lassitude, and feels a difficulty of breathing, and a palpitation of the heart, every time she uses brisk motion. Her pulse is generally quick and low, and shews her to have a small degree of feverishness.

I take

I take it for granted that her disorder is not accompanied with the fluor albus, as you do not mention such a circumstance; and this is extremely fortunate; for in all the chlorotic cachexies that I have known to terminate fatally, the patients were debilitated by an obstinate concomitant fluor.

This young lady's complaint I can impute to no other cause, than an inactive life, and perhaps a delicate constitution. Being as yet scarcely thirteen years of age, and not plethoric, an obstruction of the menses is not to be supposed in any degree concerned in its production.

In respect to the cure, which I entertain no doubt of being completed in a short time, the first thing we are to prescribe is an emetic of Ipecacuanha, after which I would advise that the young lady

lady take one or two full doses of sacred tincture, or any other aloetic purge. In cachectic disorders we ought always to begin by cleansing the primæ viæ.

After these evacuations she must enter on a course of alterative medicines; and as she is not of a plethoric habit of body we may have immediate recourse to chalybeates. As her stomach is perhaps too delicate for taking them in the solid form, she may use the tincture, joined with light bitters. The following will serve for the prescription.

R. Rad. zedoar. calam. aromat.
ana drachmas duas, cort. auran-
tior. fescunciam, vini Lisbonens.
libras duas. Digere per quatri-
dium, & colaturæ adde vini
chalybeat. uncias octo. Capiat
cochlear. quatuor bis in die.

I would also advise that she take every night fifteen grains of the pil Rufi; or
thirty

thirty drops of the following mixture, the dose of which may be increased to a tea spoonful, provided that it proves not too laxative.

R. Elixir. proprietat, tinctur.
helleb. nig. ana unciam unam.
Misce.

Should her belly, on the other hand, be too much bound, during the chalybeate course, it will be proper to interpose a laxative of rhubarb and manna; or to give a drachm of sal polychrest, which is an excellent remedy in all disorders arising from a viscid state of the fluids.

During this course the young lady must use brisk exercise, of which that of riding on horseback will be attended with the greatest advantge.

In regard to diet, she must avoid acids, and all sorts of food that are of difficult

difficult digestion; and instead of malt liquors, use wine and water for her drink.

It is not improbable but the menses may make their appearance about the time that the cure is completed. For I have some times observed that chlorotic girls, who were cured of their disorder about the age of this young lady, menstruated soon after. The medicines they used, being emmenagogic, probably accelerated the period of the evacuation. If that should not happen spontaneously, I think it would be proper to continue the use of the aloetic and chalybeate remedies occasionally for some time. I have nothing farther to add, but that I am, &c.

CASE

CASE XLIII.

Of a Leprous Eruption.

S I R,

I HAVE met with several such cases as that of Mr. ---, of which you send me an account. The eruptions, which I have observed to be generally greatest on the face, were as you describe, at first of a red colour, and afterwards scaled off like bran. In some patients, they were accompanied, or preceded, by swellings of the glandular parts. Two particularly had tumors in the groins, exactly resembling buboes, and afforded room to suspect a venereal taint. The tumors soon disappeared, but the eruptions resisted a mercurial course. I have attempted to cure them by sudorifics, diuretics, laxatives, the tincture of cantharides, antimonials, tar-water, &c. but all without any effect. The remedy I have found most successful

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in this leprous kind of disorder, and what I would recommend to Mr. ----, is the juice of fumitory. Let him take three or four spoonfuls of it twice a day. It will be proper at the same time that he take a gentle laxative every other day, and that he abstain from animal food. I would also advise that he go into a warm bath once or twice a week. I shall be glad to hear of the event,

And am, &c.

The gentleman followed the regimen above prescribed, and was cured of the eruption in six weeks; only a more than ordinary flush was perceptible in his face for some time after.

C A S E

C A S E XLIV.

Of a Pain in the Stomach

S I R,

I H A V E perused your account of the reverend gentleman who complains of a rheumatism in his shoulders and arms, to which he has been subject for near a twelvemonth; but what gives him the most uneasiness is a pain in the stomach, which has afflicted him for nearly the same time; and for this, chiefly, he desires my advice.

Respecting his history, you inform me, that he has lived always regularly, and used moderate exercise. The pain seizes indifferently whether the stomach be full or empty; but is not accompanied with evident signs of flatulence, at least in any considerable degree. I ought also to mention, that neither the gentleman himself, nor his family, as

far as he knows, were ever troubled with the gout.

I am satisfied from these circumstances, that the complaint is not of an arthritic nature; for in all the patients whom I have seen affected with a gouty disorder of the stomach, the pain, as soon as it ceased to molest that organ, usually fixed on some other part.

Neither does the complaint seem to me to derive its origin from acidities. For were that really the case, the pain would not return till some time after eating, when an acid would be produced in the stomach. But even the unsuccessful use of absorbents affords sufficient evidence that the disorder proceeds not from that cause.

The irregularity of the pain, in respect to the time of invasion, will not permit the supposition that it is of a periodical kind. Neither does the gentle-

man's constitution, which appears not to be nervous, afford room for thinking it is spasmodic.

Upon the whole, I am inclined to imagine, that the complaint in our patient's stomach is of a rheumatic nature; and this opinion seems to receive confirmation from the circumstance of the gentleman being troubled with the rheumatism in other parts of his body.

Though the disorder now under our consideration be not of the acute kind, yet as the patient is somewhat plethoric, it will be proper to begin the cure by drawing some blood from the arm.

The remedies in this case are in general the same that are suitable in every chronic rheumatism; and the pain of the stomach, as well as that of the arm, is to be cured by promoting perspiration, the defect of which proves the cause of viscosity or acrimony in the fluids. It

will be of great advantage for that purpose, that the gentleman wear a flannel shirt; for I have frequently observed, that the habitual use of that expedient, especially if warm frictions be performed every night, contributes more to the cure of the rheumatism than diaphoretic medicines alone. These, however, are not to be neglected; and what I would chiefly advise of that kind is, a decoction of the bur-dock root; by which I have lately cured several patients who were greatly distressed with the chronic rheumatism. In some cases I have ordered half an ounce, or three drachms, of spir. minderer. to be added to a quart of the decoction, which was the quantity daily used; and I think the same method may be practised with this gentleman. I would likewise recommend to him to take every morning one or two tea-spoonfuls of white mustard-seed, which is an excellent attenuant in this complaint, and particularly beneficial

where

where the fluids are in any degree tainted with a scorbutic acrimony.

During this course, it may perhaps be necessary that he take occasionally some laxative: a spoonful of the tinct. sacra may answer the purpose.

I have nothing more to advise at present, but that the gentleman continue to ride daily on horseback; and that he avoid viscid aliments, and catching cold.

Should he not speedily recover by the use of these means, I beg you will inform me, and believe me to be, &c.

M 4

C A S E

C A S E XLV.

Of the Scrophula.

Dear S I R,

I A M favoured with yours respecting Lord ----'s son, who since his recovery from the measles, which he had about four months ago, discovers a tendency to glandular swellings of the neck, some of which are considerably advanced. I am much afraid that they are of the scrophulous kind, and will prove very difficult to be cured.

In regard to the cause of the complaint, I suspect it to proceed from the dregs of his late disorder, which perhaps have not been sufficiently purged off. It may now perhaps be too late to retrieve the error, but still I think it must be attempted. For as the tumors have increased quickly both in number and size, it would seem as if there were a great
 quantity

quantity of vitiated humours in the body, which require to be discharged. Without premising bleeding, as he does not appear to be plethoric, I would therefore advise, that for a few weeks he take a dose of physic once in the four or five days. The species hieræ, or the pulvis cornachini, is the most suitable for the purpose. In cases of this kind, I would always either join calomel with the physic, or give some grains of it the preceding night; for there is nothing more effectually attenuates the lentor of the fluids, and deterges the glands, than that medicine.

On the intermediate days, let him take every forenoon and afternoon a scruple of the æthiops antimonialis, which may be washed down with a few ounces of a decoction of the woods in lime water.

In such scrophulous tumors as arise from a viscid state of the blood, I always

ways prefer internal remedies to topical applications; for till the strumous disposition be corrected by alterative medicines, we never can expect a radical cure of the disorder. My advice would therefore be, to insist at present in rectifying the habit of body; and when that is accomplished, we can turn our attention with more success to the discussion or suppuration of the tumors. As you have prohibited the use of viscid aliments, buttery sauces, and malt liquors, and also enjoined proper exercise, I have nothing to add on the article of regimen, and shall therefore conclude with assuring you that I am, &c.

P. S. I had almost forgot to congratulate you on the marriage of your amiable and accomplished daughter. I hope to have the pleasure of seeing the young couple in town the ensuing winter.

C A S E

C A S E XLVI.

Of Worms.

S I R,

FROM what you mention of Mr. ----- who, along with many troublesome symptoms, complains chiefly of a vertigo and an unusual disposition to fainting, I am fully of opinion that these disorders are not what is called idiopathic, and that the cause of them is not seated in the brain. I never found myself mistaken in such a conclusion, when these complaints of the head appeared in conjunction with others of the abdominal viscera, and those too such as are described to exist in this patient. For I look on the hiccup, vomitings, colic pains, looseness, the distension of the belly, the dry cough, and the various circumstances you mention, as affording evident proof that the
 animal

animal œconomy is disordered by the irritation of worms.

It is therefore my opinion, that the use of cephalic and cordial medicines ought to be persevered in no longer, but that recourse should immediately be had to powerful anthelmintics, as what alone are calculated to procure a total removal of the complaints. I would advise that he begin the cure with the following purge, which may be repeated occasionally for some time.

R. Pulv. rhei scrupulum unum,
calomelanos semisrupulum, syr.
com. q. f. f. bolus, mape sumendus.

On the intermediate days of purgation, let him take a dose of the following powders twice a day.

R. Flor. tanaceti, sem. fantonic.
ana drachmam unam, pulv.
stanni

stanni drachmas duas, sal.
 martis drachmam unam. Misce,
 & formetur pulvis in chartas
 duodecim.

Outward applications have, in my opinion, so little effect against worms, or at least are so much inferior in their operation to other remedies, that I seldom order them except to young children, who cannot be prevailed with to take medicines internally.

I make no doubt but by continuing this course for a few weeks, the gentleman will be entirely relieved from all his complaints.

I am, &c.

By the use of these medicines four worms were voided, of the long and round kind; the smallest of which measured about ten inches, and the largest near three feet. On this evacuation the complaint entirely disappeared.

C A S E

C A S E XLVII.

Of an Asthma.

S I R,

TH E disorder of Colonel ----- is undoubtedly an humoural asthma; the joint effect of a debilitated constitution and an advanced time of life. A radical cure of the complaint can scarcely be expected in these circumstances. Indeed in any age whatever, a relaxation of the lungs, especially such as has been of long continuance, almost always baffles the utmost efforts of our skill. For the delicate structure of the vesicles of that organ renders them easily susceptible of a degree of distention that in a great measure destroys their contractile power.

The principal indications of cure which we have to pursue in this case are, to attenuate the pituitous matter that

that oppresses the lungs, and discharge it by some of the excretions. A vomit is certainly very efficacious for both these purposes; but the hazard of administering it during a great difficulty of respiration renders other expedients more eligible. I would therefore propose that the colonel should make use of the following pills, which will not only dissolve the lentor of the humours, but make a derivation of them to the intestinal canal.

R. Sapon. hispan. drachmas duas,
 gum. ammoniac. aloes socotrin.
 rad. scillæ ana drachmam unam,
 fyr. com. q. s. f. massa pilular.
 e cujus unaquaque drachm. for-
 mentur pil. duodecim. Capiat
 æger tres vel quatuor bis in die.

If these pills should not keep his belly sufficiently open, it will be proper that he take a spoonful of tinctura sacra occasionally at bed-time; and if the breathing

breathing be at any time particularly difficult, attended with costiveness and flatulence in the abdomen, as often happens and greatly aggravates the complaint. I would advise that a laxative and carminative glyster be immediately injected.

When the asthma is accompanied with want of sleep, I never scruple to order the elixir asthmatic. at night, only taking care to support the excretions according as they appear to be diminished by the use of that medicine.

In respect to regimen, there is a necessity that the colonel avoid malt liquors, and all sorts of meat that are of a glutinous or flatulent nature. Whatever too much increases the circulation must also be abstained from. A light solid diet of chicken, veal, or rabbit, will be the most suitable, with white-wine and water for drink. Coffee, provided that it proves not flatulent, is in this case,

case, I think, preferable to tea. I need not mention, that in bed he ought to lay with his head pretty much elevated, for facilitating respiration, as that is an expedient which nature spontaneously dictates. I have nothing more to say, than that I shall be extremely desirous of hearing that the colonel's uneasy situation is much alleviated by these means.

With a severe pain about the pit of the stomach, I am, &c. When you was present during one of the paroxysms, you observed that her pulse was very weak, and that she was seized with great debility. All these characteristic signs of the nature of her disorder, which is evidently the hysterical colic. Many more inexcusable errors have been committed in the diagnosis of diseases, than in supposing worms to be the genuine cause of the complaint, which I think you would be the opinion you first entertained. The vomiting indeed, and the tendency, are often

N C A S E

-symptoms

C A S E XLVIII.

Of the Hysteric Colic.

S I R,

Y O U inform me that Miss --- who is of a nervous constitution, has for some time been troubled at intervals with a severe pain about the pit of the stomach, attended with a vomiting of bilious matter. When you was present during one of the paroxysms, you observed that her pulse was very weak, and that she was seized with great despondency. All these are characteristic signs of the nature of her disorder, which is evidently the hysterical colic. Many more inexcusable errors have been committed in the diagnostics of diseases, than in supposing worms to be the genuine cause of the complaint, which I think you confess was the opinion you first entertained. The vomiting indeed, and I may add the despondency, are often symptoms

symptoms of worms, as well as of the hysteric colic; but when the former of these causes exists, the case is generally accompanied with other signs, that serve to ascertain its true origin.

However the two diseases may sometimes bear a resemblance to each other in their symptoms, yet in what respects the method of cure they are totally different. For whereas in the case of worms, proper purgatives, occasionally administered, are serviceable; in the hysteric colic, all evacuations are prejudicial, and tend to exasperate the disorder, by rendering the body more irritable.

I have frequently attempted the cure of the hysteric colic by means of fœtid medicines given internally, but without the success which might be expected from antispasmodics in a disorder depending on irritation. For I do not recollect one instance of the hysteric colic being cured by any other remedy than

opiates. I would therefore recommend the use of some of these in any future paroxysm of the disorder, with which the lady may be seized. The quantity of the opiate necessary to vanquish the complaint, will be found variable in different persons and circumstances; wherefore the best rule of practice is, to give a moderate dose at once, and afterwards to repeat the medicine in a less quantity every half hour, till the complaint ceases.

In order to prevent the return of this troublesome disorder, the lady ought to undergo a course of the bath and chalybeates in the intervals, and ride pretty frequently on horseback. For it is by strengthening the nervous system, that the complaint is to be radically cured. In the mean time, she ought to be particularly attentive to the regularity of the menstrual discharge; as it would appear that the disorder is sometimes excited by that cause. It would be proper for
this

this purpose, that she take fifteen grains of the pil. Ruff every night for a week before the periods, and that she sometimes bathe her feet in warm water.

With respect to the question, whether it is probable that the young lady would live more free from her complaint in a married than a single state? I cannot take upon me to determine. The bearing of children is certainly debilitating to a delicate constitution. But if her situation otherwise were perfectly happy, perhaps that circumstance would be balanced by the obstructions so incident to unmarried women, and which prove the cause of so many female complaints. But the determination of that question depending on contingencies, it is properly not an object of enquiry. I sincerely wish success to your endeavours in behalf of the young lady,

And am, &c.

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C A S E

C A S E XLIX.

Of an Apoplexy,

S I R,

I A M extremely sorry to be informed that Admiral ----- has lately had a fit of an apoplexy; and the more so, as there is reason to apprehend, from his constitution and time of life, that he may afterwards be exposed to its attack. In order to prevent such a consequence, it will be necessary that we attend to the cause and nature of the disease.

In enquiring into the cause of an apoplexy, when I observe no circumstance that can favour the supposition of the disorder being excited by sympathy, I would always be inclined to consider it entirely as idiopathic. For it would be absurd to ascribe an effect to any cause that is perfectly latent, and of whose existence we have no knowledge from
any

any obvious symptom. Upon this principle I conclude, that the cause of the admiral's complaint is seated in the head. Let us now enquire what that cause really is.

An apoplexy is generally imagined to proceed from an obstruction of the passage of the nervous fluid into the muscles of voluntary motion. This obstruction may be occasioned by the quantity or viscosity of the fluids, by any pressure on the brain, and perhaps by spasms on the origin of the nerves. The last of these causes, however, as never being evident to the senses, must be considered as entirely conjectural.

The constitutions in which the fluids exceed in quantity have been seduced to two general kinds; namely, the sanguine, and the serous; and into these two species are apoplexies also distinguished. The question then is, to determine the constitution of our patient,

and thereby ascertain to which of the fluids the disorder ought to be ascribed, on the idea of its being caused by superabundance. You who have the opportunity of examining the admiral's pulse, can best judge whether or not the disorder be occasioned by a redundancy of blood. Though the vessels may be equally distended by the globular and serous parts of the fluids, yet we know, that when the latter predominates too much in proportion, the pulse, though full, has never that firmness and elasticity which attend a redundancy of the globular part of the blood. Besides, when the fluids are thin and serous, the heat of the body is always less than in the opposite condition. I take no criterion from the complexion of the face, because I think it is often fallacious. For my own part, I am of opinion that the admiral is not plethoric, but that his constitution rather inclines to the surcharge of a serous colluvies; and for this opinion my reasons are founded

on

on his history. Ever since his return from the expedition, his health has been more precarious than formerly; he has been almost constantly subject to the chronic rheumatism; and his habit of body, though not reduced, is evidently more lax than before. If, after examining his constitution by the few general rules abovementioned, you find the reasons on which I found my opinion to be corroborated by your own observation, I make no doubt but your sentiments will correspond with mine in respect to the cause of the disorder; but this, indeed, you have already testified, by the manner in which you treated him.

It seems unnecessary to produce any arguments for establishing the opinion of there being a visciditity of the fluids in our present patient; for that is a circumstance which generally accompanies a languid circulation of watery fluids.

I have

I have been led into this tedious digression, from a desire of elucidating the principle by which we are to direct our endeavours for preventing a return of the apoplexy. Our business is solely to prescribe such a regimen, as may guard against a redundancy or viscosity of the serous fluids. These ends will be most effectually answered by promoting the digestions and discharges. Here then we may call to our assistance stomatic medicines and the bark; of a tincture of which I would have the admiral take a glass twice a day, at the usual hours. Nothing contributes more towards strengthening the constitution than the use of chalybeate waters; but, in the case of an apoplectic person, they are not adviseable, on account of the heat and rarefaction which they produce.

The discharge that is most apt to be deficient is that by the intestines, which must be supported by the occasional use
of

of aloetic laxatives, or the bitter tincture of rhubarb.

Temperance in diet, and moderate exercise, are of great advantage in promoting both the digestions and discharges; and for that reason, the admiral ought to consider them as one of the principal objects of his attention. He must abstain from spirituous liquors, and too much indulgence in wine. His meat should be of easy digestion, and thoroughly done; and his supper particularly ought to be light, in respect both to quantity and quality. He must also avoid the inclemencies of the air, and should be careful to lay in bed with his head always a little raised.

Besides the regimen above prescribed, I would advise that an issue be opened, either between the shoulders or in the leg. For it is an expedient of great advantage in preventing disorders that arise from a serous colluvies.

By

By a strict observance of these injunctions, I hope that the admiral may live free from a return of the fit; but should it unfortunately recur, it must be treated in the same judicious manner as before, viz. by stimulating applications externally, a vomit, purgatives, and acrid glysters; forbearing to bleed, which, in a plethoric constitution would be indispensibly requisite, but in the case of this respectable gentleman would undoubtedly prove fatal. It is my earnest desire, that the means may be successfully used for preserving a life so universally valued, and so useful to the publick.

I am, &c

CASE

C A S E L.

Of a Pain in the left Hypochondrium.

S I R,

I H A V E been favoured with your letter concerning the bishop of --- son, a youth of twelve years of age, who lately beginning to ride on horse-back, complains of a pain in the left hypochondrium, of which he is sensible only when he uses that exercise. You inform me, that he has been too much addicted to a sedentary life, and was a few years ago extremely liable to the colic. He does not feel any weight in the part affected, but a distention of it is sometimes perceptible. His pulse is natural, and he is rather of a costive habit.

From all these circumstances I am of opinion, that the pain of which he complains proceeds from a flatulent distention of the bowels, particularly the colon;

lon ; and the reason of the pain being felt only in the time of riding is, that, by the concussion received from that exercise, the sides of the part affected are irregularly compressed, and the spasmodic constriction which shuts up the included air not immediately relaxing, the fibres of the intestine suffer greater dilatation than at other times.

For the cure of this complaint, there is really nothing so effectual as the continuance of the very exercise which produces it. Riding on horseback remarkably strengthens the bowels, and guards them against the attack of flatulent and spasmodic affections. I am certain, that when the young gentleman has been a little accustomed to that healthy exercise, the pain, which at present it excites, will entirely vanish.

I do not think that any thing else is necessary for extirpating the complaint ; only it will be proper that he use a laxative

tive of rhubarb occasionally, while the
costive disposition remains.

I am, &c.

CASE LI.

Of an Immoderate Flux of the Menstr.

SIR,

I HAVE this moment received your
letter by express, concerning the Du-
chess of ----- who has been seized with
a return of her menses almost a fortnight
before the natural period, and is appre-
hensive of an immoderate discharge.
You inform me, that for a week pre-
ceding she had rode much on horse-
back, and generally danced in the even-
ings. Her pulse being somewhat full,
you have bled her in the arm, and
propose administering the pulvis stypti-
cus, and laudanum at night.

I am

I approve of your having drawn some blood from her grace's arm; as her pulse was full; though I am of opinion at the same time that the fulness does not proceed from a real plethora, but merely from a rarefaction of the blood, occasioned by much exercise, and the heat of the weather. Even in that view, however, a little bleeding was proper, in order to abate the rarefaction.

HAVE this moment received your letter by express concerning the Du-
With respect to the pulvis stypticus and laudanum, I do not think that either of them is particularly indicated in this case. For the powder is chiefly adapted to hæmorrhages proceeding from a laxity of the uterine vessels, and the laudanum, to those that arise from irritation. It is true that the powder is also serviceable in too great thinness of the blood, which is admitted to be the proximate cause of her grace's complaint; but then it is in such a thinness as is produced by a relaxation of the vessels, and not so much in that which

which is occasioned by heat and motion; the most suitable remedies for which are cooling medicines, which at any rate ought certainly, in cases of rarefaction, to precede the use of astringents. I would therefore advise, that her grace should make use of an emulsion of the cold seeds, to which a little gum arabic may be added. A tea-cup-ful of it, drank every hour or two, will greatly allay the rarefaction of the blood. Should her grace take a few spoonfuls of the tinctura rosar. alternately with the emulsion, it might be of advantage. And I would have no objection against adding a small quantity of nitre to each of them, so as it did not affect her grace's stomach.

If she complains of any gripes, or has a tendency to a looseness, it will be proper to give some mild purgative, as tamarinds, or lenitive electuary; for I have sometimes had reason to suspect that uterine hæmorrhages were partly excited

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by

by crudities in the bowels, or at least were rendered more violent and of longer duration by that cause.

It is highly proper that her grace lay in a supine posture, and be kept as quiet as possible, which I presume you have already enjoined. I think it adviseable, that she make use of a mattress rather than a feather-bed, as it will keep her loins and whole body much cooler, and thereby assist in counteracting the rarefaction, which is the cause of the disorder.

Should the flux continue after there is ground to imagine that the rarefaction of the blood is abated, I should in that case agree with you as to the propriety of having recourse to the pulv. stypticus; but it is much better to delay the use of such medicines as constrict the vessels, till the cause of their distention is entirely removed. In respect to laudanum, it would likewise be improper till the
turgency

turgency of the vessels is diminished, as it has an evident effect in increasing the rarefaction of the fluids. It might afterwards perhaps be used with advantage, if her grace appeared restless, and there was any reason for suspecting that the hæmorrhage was supported by irritation.

I entertain no doubt but the complaint will soon be removed by the cooling remedies above prescribed. But her grace must avoid dancing for some time. For nothing has a greater effect in occasioning a relapse of that disorder.

I am, &c.

By the use of these remedies, and keeping cool, her grace recovered in a few days.

CASE LH.

Of a Stone in the Gall-bladder.

S. I. R.

Respecting the case of the worthy clergyman concerning whom you have wrote me, I am of opinion that the obtuse pain in the right hypochondrium, of which he complains, proceeds from a stone in the gall-bladder; for the seat of the pain, as you describe it, is exactly that part. While the stone remains in the gall-bladder, the signs of its existence are so few and obscure, that it is impossible we can pretend to certainty in such a diagnostic. The patient, it seems, is sensible of little or no weight in the part affected, which must be allowed to be one circumstance against the probability of my opinion. But I have known several cases of stones being discharged from the gall-bladder, where the symptom of which had scarcely been per-

perceptible. That, you know, must depend on the size and solidity of the stone, which are extremely variable.

My chief reason for imagining it to be a concretion in the gall-bladder, rather than a rheumatic pain, or a tumor from obstruction, is, that the gentleman is most sensible of the complaint when he uses brisk exercise. The same effect might no doubt happen from a tumor, on account of the greater agitation of the viscera during the time of motion. But, in dubious cases, I always think it is more rational to suspect a complaint to be of that kind which is most frequent and natural to the part of the body in which it appears to be seated, than to suppose that it proceeds from a general cause that is equally incidental to other parts. This is judging by probability; and while we follow such a rule in our enquiries, we shall certainly be less liable to commit mistakes. It is not unlikely however, that the cause of the complaint

plaint will soon become more evident, by the stone being protruded into the cystic duct, and from thence into the intestines. If that event should happen, a jaundice will be the natural consequence, and on the cessation of that disorder, the biliary concretion may be found discharged with the fæces.

Proceeding on this idea of the cause of the gentleman's complaint, the indication of cure would be, to dissolve the biliary concretion. But sorry I am, that this problem has never yet been successfully resolved, so far as I know. Various medicines have been proposed for this purpose, without the desired effect; and in regard to stones in the gall-bladder, we are still left to the prosecution of only two intentions in practice; which are, either to prevent the formation of such concretions, or to expel them when formed. The reverend gentleman may perhaps be very properly a subject for both these medicinal pursuits. He certainly is for
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the former ; as, unless the habit of body be altered, a disposition towards the breeding of gall-stones, when once it is contracted, continues for the most part through life.

In order to prevent the formation or increase of stones in the gall-bladder, the intention is generally admitted to be, that of resolving the viscidities of the fluids ; in which, it is probable, the tendency to concretion exists. In this case, therefore, the use of chalybeate waters is strongly indicated ; as they invigorate the action of the solids, and by that means preserve the blood from the pituitous tenacity, which it contracts in a languid state of the circulation. I do not suggest the propriety of this expedient from theory, though I am convinced that a certain degree of attention in practice is always due to the speculative principles of the sciences. My opinion

of the utility of chalybeate waters is founded on experience; and wherever I have prescribed them to patients who were disposed to biliary concretions, I found that the production of these calculous substances; was either entirely prevented for some time, or at least that their increase was very considerably retarded. I would therefore advise, that the reverend gentleman should have recourse to some of the spa's of that kind; from the use of which, I am fully persuaded, he will reap great advantage, respecting the prevention of biliary complaints.

With regard to the second intention above mentioned, which was, to expel the calculous concretions, it is a step which I think most eligible to leave to the operation of nature. We can never have any certainty that the stone is capable of passing from the gall-bladder through the ducts, without exciting violent perturbations in the animal economy; and we endeavour soon enough to
forward

forward its transfit, when there are evident symptoms of its having already entered on the passage. Should this happen to be the case with our patient, which is not improbable, there will then be great occasion for your assistance; and you may perhaps be under the necessity of putting into practice all the expedients which are found to be useful for facilitating the progress of the concretion in its route. These are, bleeding, vomits, the semicupium, and opiates; which respectively either relax the biliary ducts, or promote the descent of the concretions. But I need not at present insist on this subject. All that we have now to do is, to prescribe such a regimen to the patient as seems the most suitable for preventing the increase of his complaint. For that purpose, I think, that a course of chalybeate water, as has been already mentioned, is highly advisable. The gentleman ought also to use moderate exercise, and avoid aliments that are of difficult digestion, as
 what,

what, by increasing the viscosity of the fluids, may tend to an augmentation of the complaint.

If the gentleman be of a costive habit, as is generally the case with those who have a viscosity of the biliary secretion, it would be proper that he make use of some laxative occasionally; and for that purpose the following pills may answer.

R. Sapon. hispan. drachmas duas,
aloes socotrin. drach. unam.
elixir. proprietat. q. s. f. massa
pilul. formand. in pil. gr. quin-
que.

Capiat tres vel quatuor hora
somni cum alvus non respon-
debit.

I shall add no more but that,

I am, &c.

The

The event in a short time confirmed, that the cause of this gentleman's complaint was concretions in the gall-bladder; for he was seized with a jaundice, and at the conclusion of it voided some stones.

C A S E LIII.

Of the Fever of Child-bed Women.

Dear S I R,

I W O U L D with great pleasure have answered your request, respecting the fever of child-bed women, which has been so frequent in town this season, though you had not signified, as a circumstance to induce my compliance, that you are particularly desirous of information on that subject, on account of the intention of the Duchess of ----- to lay in at her country seat.

I am

I am confident you are so well acquainted with the nature of this fever, that I need not enter on a particular detail of its history, and shall therefore only give it as my opinion, that the child-bed fever is a primary, and not a secondary disease, as has been imagined by many physicians. For I have frequently observed it exist, unattended by any of the accidents from which it has been supposed to derive its origin.

The earlier stage of this fever is generally accompanied with signs of inflammation, which seems to have its principal seat about the region of the uterus; but when the disease has continued for a few days, the inflammatory symptoms for the most part subside, and the fever assumes a more putrid appearance; at which time, if not sooner, a bilious or putrid diarrhæa attacks the patient, and usually continues to the end of the disease.

This

This fever is generally of very uncertain duration; the patient sometimes dying within twenty-four hours from the commencement of the disease; but the eleventh day is the period at which it is most commonly determined.

The crisis of the child-bed fever seems not to depend in any degree upon what is called the concoction of the humours: for the cure is gradually performed, either by a spontaneous evacuation from the stomach, or a tedious discharge of porraceous matter by stool. The slow progress of these excretions, however, render the termination of this fever equally fatal in weak constitutions with those which are decided by an alteration produced in the febrile matter. For where the patients have not sufficient strength to bear the evacuations for some time, they generally sink under the disease. But there is always reason to hope for a happy issue of the fever, when the lochia return to their natural state, when the

the swelling and tenderness of the abdomen decline, and a diaphoresis sensibly breaks forth.

This fever being accompanied with symptoms both of an inflammatory and putrid nature, the method of cure requires to be varied according as the disease appears to incline to one or other of these morbid dispositions. In some patients, bleeding is absolutely necessary; in others it is extremely prejudicial. In respect to this evacuation, therefore, we must always be determined by the strength of the patient, and the respective prevalence of inflammatory or putrid symptoms. I shall briefly relate the general method of cure which I follow in the treatment of this fever.

When I am called so early as the beginning of the fever, while the rigor that introduces it still continues, my first endeavour is as much as possible to shorten and mitigate that period. For I have frequently

frequently observed, that the succeeding disease greatly corresponds in its progress to the violence and duration of the first stage. Supposing then, as I have already said, that I am called at the very access of the fever, I prescribe a free use of warm diluting drinks, with sometimes a few drops of volatile spirits, or a dish of warm sack whey, that is not made too strong. The proper rule for adjusting the standard of these diaphoretic remedies is, to adapt them always to the pulse and strength of the patient; so that the weaker these are found to be, a greater latitude is allowable in the use of cordial medicines.

When the hot fit arrives, I generally order an emollient injection; which I advise to be repeated frequently through the progress of the fever. I look on them as highly advantageous in two lights. One is, that they promote the evacuation by stool, which appears to me to be in a great measure the crisis of the
dis-

disease; and the other, that they have the effect of a fomentation to the uterus, and the neighbouring parts; for which reason they are particularly indicated when the lochia are suppressed. It is certain however, that great care is necessary in administering injections in this disease, on account of the tenderness of the parts.

I afterwards proceed to what I think the grand indication in the disease, and indeed in most other fevers at the beginning: that is, to cleanse the *Primæ Viæ* both by vomit and stool. For this purpose, I make use of tartar emetic, which I generally prescribe in the following manner.

R. Tartar. emetic. gr. duo;
dissolve in aq. fontan. uncias
quatuor.

Of

Of this solution I prescribe two spoonfuls to be taken immediately, and one every two hours after till it begins to operate. But should its operation not be productive of some mitigation of the fever, I make no scruple of repeating it occasionally; proportioning the quantity of the dose to the strength of the patient.

When the force of the fever has been partly subdued by this remedy, I then have recourse to the saline draughts, which I order to be continued through the course of the disease; adding to them sometimes a few grains of rhubarb, especially towards the decline of the disorder. I desire that the patient may all along drink freely of diluting liquors, and be kept from every thing that is heating after the rigor at the beginning has ceased; unless a weakness of the pulse and faintness should render the use of some cordial medicine necessary. Relaxing fomentations also ought to be

P frequently

frequently applied to the belly while pains continue to indicate them.

This imperfect account of my treatment of the fever of child-bed women might be considered as too general, if addressed to any person of less experience in practice than yourself. But on the present occasion, a longer letter would have been superfluous; and short as this one is, I hope it is sufficient to convince you with how much pleasure I comply with your request, and that I always am, &c.

CASE

C A S E L I V.

Of an Asthma.

S I R,

I A M favoured with your account of Mr. ----- a captain of a vessel, who has complained, for near these two years past, of a difficulty of breathing, which seized him at irregular intervals, but is now become more frequent in its attacks, and increases likewise in violence and duration. It is represented to seize him always suddenly, without any obvious alteration happening in the air. When the paroxysm continues long, he usually expectorates a small quantity of pituitous frothy matter at the close of it. He has no difficulty of breathing in the intervals, but is much troubled with flatulence in his stomach, and watchfulness.

P 2

You

You inform me that he has used various pectoral medicines without any effect; such as the pil. scillitic. garlic, expressio milleped. oxymel pectoral, &c. It is my opinion, that the gentleman's complaint is not of such a nature as indicates the use of these attenuating medicines; nay, that it may even be exasperated by them. For it appears evident, that his asthma is of the nervous sort; in which I never observed any benefit result from those remedies which are purely of the inciding and detergent kind. If they ever are administered with advantage, it is at the end of the paroxysm, in order to promote the discharge of the serous humours, which have transfused into the pulmonary vesicles during the preceding difficulty of respiration. But when used even on that occasion, they ought to be given in a small quantity at a time; otherwise they sometimes excite such an irritation as is

apt

apt to produce a paroxysm of the disorder.

The medicines I would recommend in the paroxysms of this complaint are, those of the nervous and sedative kind; to which the gentleman ought to have immediate recourse as soon as the fit begins; or, what would be better if he could judge of that circumstance, whenever he expects its approach. I am persuaded he will find great benefit from the following pills.

R. Af. foetid. drachm. unam,
opii gr. sex, misce, & formetur
massa in pil. duodecim.

Let him take one of these pills at the approach of his complaint, and in case he should find no effect from that quantity, which I am convinced however that he will, he might take another in about an hour after. This medicine will dispel
P 3 the

the flatulence in his stomach, as well as abate the asthmatic paroxysm.

It will also be of service, that the gentleman keep his feet in warm water during the fit, a practice which I have often known to be highly advantageous in spasmodic disorders.

A blister applied between the shoulders, or even on the legs, has likewise considerable efficacy against complaints of this kind.

What I have already mentioned are but palliative remedies, calculated merely to abate the paroxysm, and not to correct the disposition which produces it. To effect a radical cure of the gentleman's complaint, it would be necessary to strengthen the whole nervous system, from a relaxation of which I am of opinion that his disorder entirely proceeds. To fulfil that indication, however, is a matter of the greatest difficulty. But if

we

we cannot expect all the success that we desire in our endeavours towards that end, we ought at least to recommend the use of such means as are best adapted for attaining it. We know that nothing is of so much advantage for strengthening a relaxed constitution, as a proper regulation of the non-naturals. Among these, the article of diet is very conspicuous, and requires attention both to the quantity and the kinds of aliment made use of. It will be proper, therefore, that the gentleman restrict himself chiefly to solid meats; for a vegetable diet always proves flatulent to persons whose bowels are weak. From flesh that is salted, however, he certainly ought to abstain; as well as from cheese, pastry-work, and whatever is of difficult digestion. Malt liquors, as being flatulent, are improper for his drink; and instead of them he ought to use wine and water, or water with which a little brandy or rum is mixed.

The use of proper exercise is also of the greatest consequence for our purpose; and the gentleman ought to ride daily eight or ten miles on horseback. Even walking will be found beneficial, if not protracted to such a degree as to occasion fatigue. By all means he must avoid a too sedentary kind of life.

The watchfulness with which he is troubled, is a circumstance that will greatly counteract all our endeavours for restoring his strength; and yet it is such a symptom as can be effectually removed only by the same means which are recommended for the radical cure of his disorder. For the habitual use of opiates is far from being adviseable in nervous complaints.

Besides the regulation of the non-naturals, there are also medicines that prove highly advantageous for strengthening

ening the constitution. At the head of this class I rank chalybeate waters; a course of which I would earnestly recommend to the gentleman, as one of the best prophylactic remedies for his complaint. I would likewise advise him to the use of a light tincture of the bark and bitters, of which he should take a table spoonful, mixed with three or four spoonfuls of water, twice a day, when the stomach is most empty. Where digestion is weak, and the constitution nervous, I frequently prescribe the following, which I think will be useful in his case.

R. Cort. Peruvian. uncias duas,
aurantior. unc. unam, sem.
fœnicul. dulc. drach. unam,
infunde per quatuor vel sex dies
in sp. vin. Gallic. lib. duobus,
& colaturæ adde sp. lavendul.
comp. unc. duas.

To

To prevent flatulence and costiveness, which are always the consequence of a weak state of the bowels, it will be proper that the captain take occasionally a spoonful of the bitter tincture of rhubarb or the sacred tincture, at bed-time. It is of great importance in all disorders, and especially those of the nervous kind, that the belly be kept regular and sufficiently open.

Perhaps it might prove of some advantage, to smell to fetid medicines, such as *asa fœtid.* and *tinctura fuliginis*, during the paroxysm; as by that means their effluvia would be conveyed directly to the lungs. But I leave this to be determined by the experiment, if it should be made.

Whether or not we succeed in attempting to restore the captain's constitution

tution to a great degree of vigour, I am very hopeful that we shall have the satisfaction of improving it so far, as, if not totally to prevent the return of the asthmatic complaint, at least to render the paroxysms much milder, and of shorter duration.

I am, &c.

P. S. I recollect that I have not said any thing of tea-drinking, and shall therefore just mention, that it would certainly be of advantage if our patient should make no use of that commodity.

CASE

CASE LV.

*Of a Dysentery, accompanied with an
intermitting Fever.*

S I R,

I AM sorry to be of opinion that the
Vicar's situation is attended with
much danger, as his strength is greatly
reduced by the Dysentery complicated
with an intermitting fever, and both
these disorders so obstinately resist the
use of medicines. I cannot advise any
other method of cure than what you
have already adopted. For a perseve-
rance in the use of bark is the only pro-
per course for overcoming the intermit-
tent, and with respect to the dysentery,
what more can be recommended than
the evacuations you have already prescri-
bed, with the use of opiates, and astrin-
gent and balsamic glysters? All that
now remains for me is, to give you my
opinion whether the use of every one of
those

those remedies ought to be longer insisted upon, or on what particular class or classes of them our dependance is chiefly to be placed.

In considering a complicated case, the first attention is due to the complaint which appears to be the most urgent, which here no doubt is the dysentery. That disease, we well know, can never be checked suddenly with safety; and yet such a quantity of the bark as is requisite to put a stop to the intermittent fever, if it should not be carried off by stool, (in which case it would fail of its febrifuge effect) might be productive of that consequence. If, on the other hand, while we endeavour to suppress the fever, we interpose some laxative for the sake of the dysentery, we again incur the hazard of rendering the bark ineffectual; and yet should we not regard the indication that arises from the latter disease, there is the greatest reason to expect that all its symptoms will be highly

highly aggravated. It is undoubtedly owing to this unfortunate opposition of contrary indications, that both disorders hitherto baffle the remedies which you have so properly applied.

The difficulty of cure is in this case greatly increased by the weak state of body to which the patient is reduced; and I see not what else can be done, than that we endeavour to cure both the disorders, as speedily, and with as little additional diminution as possible of the gentleman's strength. For this purpose, therefore, we must be extremely sparing of evacuations, and make use only of the gentlest means for promoting such as are necessary.

After cleansing the bowels with a decoction of tamarinds, or a small dose of rhubarb, I would immediately again prescribe the bark, to be taken in such a quantity as is usually sufficient for stopping an intermitting fever; and in case
there

there appeared any tendency to its passing off by stool, I would add to each dose a few drops of laudanum. When an ounce, or at least six drachms of the bark has been administered in this manner, it will be proper to repeat the laxative, in order to carry off the putrid humours which may be collected in the intestines; as it likewise will occasionally, as long as griping, or any other of the dysenteric symptoms remain. Balsamic and astringent glysters, wherewith opiates are mixed, if necessary, should also be frequently given; nor should we neglect to administer remedies of the same intention by the mouth. I now mention balsamics; for with respect to astringents, the bark, which has been already recommended, will serve for that purpose. It will also be adviseable that the patient frequently take a dish of camomile tea, not only as it possesses a febrifuge quality in a small degree, but as likewise by its antiseptic and carminative

minative virtues, it is of considerable advantage in the dysentery.

With regard to the regimen which the gentleman ought to follow, it is sufficient to observe that it should be restorative and astringent, as well as moderately cordial. Broths of mutton or veal, with the jelly of hartshorn or calves-feet, may form a part of his diet; as may also rice and sago. For drink, he may use the white decoction, Pyrmont water, or sometimes lime water; and, if his pulse admits of it, I would advise that he now and then take a glass of claret or good red port.

As soon as he is capable of using exercise, he ought to ride daily on horseback, but must take particular care to avoid the catching of cold. He runs a great risque of either a hectic fever or dropsy. I heartily wish he may escape both.

And am, &c.

C A S E

C A S E LVI.

Of a Gleet.

S I R,

THE gentleman's disorder, whose case you sent me, is plainly a Gonorrhæa Simplex, or gleet, not owing however to the venereal disease, which he affirms he never had in his life, but to a relaxation of the seminal vessels from some other cause. It certainly is a complaint that is always extremely difficult to cure; and I have known several instances of its having produced the Tabes Dorsalis. But even when it proceeds not so far as to occasion an actual consumption, it greatly weakens the body, and excites many nervous symptoms.

In order to the cure, it is indispensibly necessary that the patient abstain from all lascivious familiarities with women,

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and

and even, as much as possible, from thinking on venereal subjects. For contemplations of that kind generally produce an immediate discharge either of the seminal liquor or the mucus of the prostate glands, in persons who are subject to a gleet.

Some physicians advise a vomit to be given in the beginning of the cure, with a view to cause a revulsion from the relaxed parts; but to me that practice seems superfluous; as the effect it produces is extremely temporary. I think therefore that the patient ought to enter immediately on the use of strengtheners. Let him take the bulk of a nutmeg of the following electuary two or three times a day.

R. Cort. Peruvian. pulv. sexunciam, alum. rup. semunciam, syr. limon, q. s. f. electuarium.

When

When the stomach nauseates this composition, which frequently happens on using it some time, I have advised with equal success the alum alone, made into pills, with only some syrup and a small quantity of the conserve of red roses or rather hips, in order to prevent them from crumbling. In this manner the patient may take to the quantity of a scruple, or half a drachm, two or three times a day.

As the cure of this complaint is commonly extremely tedious, it is proper that the patient intermit the use of the astringent remedies for a week or two occasionally, to prevent their becoming habitual to the constitution. In these intervals he ought to have recourse to the cold bath, which I have often known prove highly advantageous.

The patient must live temperately in respect both to eating and drinking; for excess in either of these articles promotes the seminal discharge, and increases the weakness of the relaxed vessels. Excessive walking or dancing will also be found prejudicial.

I am glad to be informed that the Captain, who was lately our patient for a spasmodic asthma, has found so much benefit from the prescription. Persuade him to persevere in the regimen; and believe me to be, &c.

CASE

C A S E LVII.

Of a Dropsy of the Thorax.

S I R,

F R O M the symptoms of which Mr. ----- complains, I am fully convinced that his disorder is a dropsy of the right side of the thorax, and not any morbid affection of that lobe of the lungs. He has a difficulty of inspiration, attended with a perceptible weight in the right side of the breast, and the sense of as it were an undulation in that part of the chest; but his cough is quite inconsiderable, and he sometimes has none at all.

I have always found this disorder prove extremely obstinate against evacuating remedies; although, excluding the operation, it is on these only that the hopes of a cure can be founded. If the gentleman is plethoric, it will be proper

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to

to draw some blood, in order to facilitate the absorption of the extravasated serum; but if that be not the case, the effect of diuretics and hydragogue purgatives may be tried. I have sometimes been sensible of benefit where I suspected this disorder, from the pilul. scillit. or the oxymel scillit. mixed with cinnamon water. It is my opinion, however, that the water ought to be evacuated by an opening made in the thorax. But as we ought to be certain of the disease before the operation is attempted, it will be proper that you again examine with attention, how far the symptoms of which the patient complains correspond with my idea of the case; and if this diagnostic should be confirmed by the concurring opinion of others of the profession, who had also an opportunity of visiting the patient, it would no doubt be still more satisfactory. I shall be glad to know the issue of the enquiry,

And am, &c.

The

The disorder proved to be a dropſy of the thorax, as had been ſuſpected, and the operation was ſoon afterwards performed, which relieved the patient from his complaint.

C A S E LVIII.

Of a Schirrus in the Uterus.

S I R,

ON peruſing your answer to the queries

I ſent you relative to Mrs. ---- I am confirmed in the opinion that her diſorder is a ſchirrous tumor of the uterus. Though I at firſt ſuſpected this to be the caſe, I delayed determining any thing on the ſubject, till I ſhould be informed of every circumſtance that uſually accompany the diſeaſe, and diſtinguiſh it from other complaints to which many of its ſymptoms bear a ſimilarity.

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She

She not only is sensible of a weight in the region of the uterus, but the tumor may be ascertained by its hardness and resistance, on laying the hand over the part, when she is placed in a supine posture. The diagnostic would no doubt have been still more satisfactory, had the state of the uterus been examined by introducing the finger; but as that was found impracticable, our opinion must be governed by the other concomitant symptoms of the disorder. I have several times, however, known a schirrus of the uterus to be confounded with other tumefactions of that region, such as conception, a dropfy, or a mole. But a schirrus may be distinguished from conception by the swelling of the uterus, which in the latter is more uniformly round, while in the former case inequalities of the protuberance are perceptible. By a schirrus likewise the health of the woman is much more affected than by conception.

conception. In pregnancy the breasts increase in bulk, but in a schirrus on the contrary they appear diminished.

A schirrus may be distinguished from a dropſy of the uterus by laying the hand over the part. For in a dropſy the ſubſtance of the uterus ſeems uniform to the touch, while in a ſchirrus it is hard and unequal.

A ſchirrus of the uterus may be known from a mole by all the ſame ſigns as from pregnancy.

On applying theſe obſervations to the caſe of our patient, I think there is no doubt to be entertained of the nature of her diſorder; and it now remains that we propoſe the method of cure, which I am ſorry to ſay is too often ineffectual in diſorders of this kind, eſpecially when they are of long ſtanding. That of the gentlewoman, our patient, is certainly advanced beyond an incipient ſtate, as
ſhe

she has been sensible of it upwards of eight months; but there is yet one circumstance in her favour, which is, that the tumor appears to be pretty soft, and not to have attained the indurated condition of a perfect and legitimate schirrus. I ought to add, that the part is not affected with shooting pains, which is another circumstance that countenances a favourable prognostic; and that the gentlewoman's constitution is apparently good. From all these considerations, I think there is ground to hope for success in attempting a resolution of the schirrus, which is therefore the intention to be prosecuted.

According to this plan, it will be proper that the patient be bled from time to time, in order to relax the vessels of the part affected, and prevent any inflammation from the use of resolving medicines, especially as her menses flow not so freely as usual. The remedies I would recommend are the following,
which

which it is safest to administer in small doses.

R. Sapon. Venet. drachmas tres,
gum. ammoniac. tartar vitriol.
ana drach. unam, calomelanos
scrupul. unum, syr. 5 rad.
aper. q. s. f. mass. pilul. for-
mand. in pil. gr. quinque.

Three of these pills are to be taken twice a day, and the use of them persevered in as long as the patient feels neither pain nor heat in the part affected; on the smallest perception of which symptoms, there would be a necessity for laying them entirely aside. But of such an accident I do not apprehend that there is any danger, though it seemed proper to mention it.

During the use of deobstruent remedies, it will be adviseable that the gentlewoman frequently take some laxative,

tive, in order to prevent the advancement of the schirrus, and evacuate the humours which may have been dissolved by the medicines.

When she has continued in this course a few weeks, I would recommend the use of some chalybeate water for completing the cure; as nothing is more advantageous in disorders of this kind, when the obstructions appear not to be in such a state as to forbid having recourse to a remedy which increases the force of the circulation.

The gentlewoman ought to confine herself to a diet of easy digestion; avoiding every thing that is viscid, flatulent, or high-seasoned. She must totally abstain from malt and spirituous liquors, and be very sparing in the use even of wine. The most suitable drink for her would be, a light decoction of the woods, in which a small quantity of some of the opening roots may be boiled.

She

She must also abstain from all violent exercise, in case of exasperating the tumor; and should she be accidentally seized with a cough, on catching cold, it will be adviseable to check it by pectoral and anodyne medicines as soon as possible, to prevent it from irritating the tumor, the seat of which is always compressed in violent exertions of the lungs.

Were the palliative method of cure to be followed, which, when the schirrus appears to be in such a state as not to admit of resolution is the only expedient, it would be entirely the same with what I have mentioned, excluding the deobstruent medicines and chalybeate water. But the favourable circumstances in this gentlewoman's case afford room for expecting a happy termination of the complaint by prosecuting the radical plan. I hope therefore that our endeavours will prove successful:

And am, &c.

The

The patient used the medicinal course above prescribed for nine or ten weeks and afterwards drank of the waters at Scarborough, which effectually removed her disorder.

C A S E LIX.

Of the Hydrocephalus Internus.

Dear S I R,

I H A V E once and again perused the case of the young gentleman the son of Squire ----, your neighbour, and am of opinion that his complaint does not proceed from worms, which I own however you had reason at first to suspect, but from a cause of a very different nature; though I believe there are few physicians in the island who would not have concurred with you in the very plausible diagnostic which you formed. In truth, there is no disease more fallacious in its symptoms than that which I imagine

gine

gine to be the complaint of our present patient. Its similarity, in many circumstances, to the disorders excited by worms, undoubtedly justified your inference of its being owing entirely to that cause. But it is probable, that the unsuccessful use of the most approved anthelmintic medicines has by this time rendered you diffident in respect to the ground of that opinion. Will you accede to my conception of the case, when I tell you it is the hydrocephalus internus? I frankly acknowledge that I have been often deceived by the symptoms of this disorder in its first stage, which like you I ascribed to worms; and it was not till lately, from observing the appearance of the disease in its more advanced periods, that I have been led to suspect the cause of the ambiguous symptoms which accompany its earlier state.

According to your account, the boy is of a good constitution. About a month, or six weeks ago he complained of a pain, which

which sometimes affected the head, sometimes the shoulder, and at other times seized the legs. Sometimes, his indisposition was perceptible only from a sickness at the stomach. In a week or ten days after, the pain was more fixed in the head, deep seated, and increased in acuteness.

At the beginning of the disease you remarked, that the patient's pulse was quicker than natural, and that he had feverish heats, especially towards the evening. The boy seemed averse to light, and was uneasy when placed in any other than an horizontal position. The pulse has lately diminished in velocity, but is become extremely irregular; and the pupils of the eyes are remarkably dilated.

From the commencement of the disorder the boy has been costive, and his stools for the most part of a dark greenish colour. He frequently screams out when

when awake ; and when asleep, you are informed that a great part of the whites of his eyes are visible.

All the symptoms above mentioned convince me, that the disorder under which the young gentleman labours is the real hydrocephalus internus ; and I am exceeding sorry to say, that my experience will not permit me to pronounce any other than a fatal prognostic of the disease. I have known several patients die of the complaint, but none recover of it ; whether this unfortunate termination of the disorder be owing to some irremediable circumstance in its nature, or that its existence is not apprehended so early as is necessary for the purpose of the cure.

If my opinion be well founded, you will soon observe, if you already have not, that the boy's pulse is greatly increased in velocity. The heat, which

R

before

before was chiefly confined to the head and præcordia, will become more general and violent, and the respiration laborious and irregular. The pupils of the eyes, from being uncommonly dilated, will at length become paralytic and immoveable, and an event succeed which mocks all medical assistance.

After what I have said, it may seem vain to propose the use of any remedies, and I cannot deny the allegation; yet even in cases where our endeavours have never been crowned with success, it is still more eligible to prescribe from the principles of theory, than entirely to abandon our patients. In this case, therefore, the most adviseable means of cure seems to be, to evacuate the serous humours which are collected in the brain, by diuretic and hydragogue medicines. A seton in the neck, or an issue between the shoulders, might be prescribed on the same indication. Perhaps

haps I may add, that antispasmodics, joined with nitre, might prove beneficial for abating the irritation which so evidently exists in the disease. I sincerely regret that it is not in my power to afford more satisfaction in this case,

And ever am, &c.

The disorder proved to be the hydrocephalus, and the boy died soon after.



R 2 CASE

C A S E L X.

*Of various Symptoms succeeding a
Tertian Fever.*

S I R,

TH E case of the gentleman in the
fens, of whom you write me, is
certainly of a very singular kind, and I
concur with you in opinion that it has
arisen from prematurely stopping the in-
termittent fever. The involuntary, con-
vulsive motion, which frequently seizes
his arms, legs, and head, and the stam-
mering of his tongue, afford evident
proof that the nerves of these parts are
affected, though it is difficult to account
for the cause of the irregular intermission
of the symptoms.

As his pulse was full, you certainly
judged right in ordering him to be
blooded, and likewise in prescribing a
vomit, which in my opinion ought to
be

be repeated. I would also propose that he be purged once or twice with the *tinctura sacra*, previous to each dose of which he should take five or six grains of calomel in a pill, for one or two nights.

After these evacuations it seems to me adviseable, that he make use of the cold bath ; and that, on coming out of it, his body be well rubbed with a towel for some time. This expedient imitates in some measure a paroxysm of the intermittent, the return of which would probably prove an effectual remedy for the complaint. Should he at the same time take half a pint of the decoct. *lignor.* two or three times a day, with twenty or thirty drops of the *vinum antimonii*, it might be attended with great advantage. A perspirative regimen is undoubtedly most suitable for him. As the case is uncommon, I shall be glad that you acquaint me with the issue of it, And believe me to be, &c.

R 3

The

The gentleman followed the course that was advised, and in three weeks was perfectly cured of his complaints.

C A S E L X I.

Of the means of preventing Abortion.

M A D A M,

I Embrace with great pleasure the opportunity of obeying your ladyship's commands, in respect to the means of preventing abortion, of which you seem apprehensive. As the injunctions for that purpose might prove rather too minute for your ladyship to attend to, I have drawn them up in the form of a memorial, for the use of the apothecary whom your ladyship employs in the country. With the most ardent wishes for the continuance of your ladyship's health, I have the honour to be, &c.

For

For the Countess of -----

*Memorial of the means of preventing
Abortion.*

THE general causes of abortion being all such accidents as occasion a violent agitation or compression of the womb, these are particularly to be guarded against, in endeavouring to obviate that effect.

Pregnancy may be divided into two stages, each whereof is attended with its peculiar symptoms; which, when violent or long continued, may prove the cause of abortion. The first stage is what intervenes between conception and the end of the fourth month; and the other is the space from that term to the end of gestation. The complaints which commonly produce abortion in the first of these periods are, nausea and vomiting, longings, and fainting.

R 4

If

If the vomiting be mild, it is not to be considered as dangerous, but on the contrary, may have good effect; both as it tends to prevent too great a degree of plethora, and assists the extension of the uterus. If it prove violent however, or continue beyond the end of the fourth month, it then demands our serious attention, and ought by all means possible to be alleviated; not only as it greatly fatigues the patient, but renders her liable to abortion.

If her ladyship's vomiting be violent, it will be necessary to have recourse to bleeding, to diminish the plethora which is most commonly the cause of that symptom. Afterwards, I would advise the use of gentle stomachic remedies; such as spearmint tea, or some drops of the compound spirit of lavender taken in a glass of wine. A more efficacious remedy, however, will be a few spoonfuls of a saline julep. Two or three spoon-

spoonfuls may be taken at first, and one spoonful every hour, or half hour after, till the vomiting abates. The following prescription may serve for the purpose.

R. Sal. absynth. drachmma
unam, succ. limon. fescunciam,
aq. cinnamom. simp. uncias
tres, sacchar. all. drachmam
unam. M.

When this mixture does not succeed in the form of a julep, it will sometimes have a good effect when taken in the act of effervescence; and therefore I think that her ladyship ought to take at least the first dose as soon as possible after the ingredients are mixed.

External applications may likewise be used for relieving this complaint. I have often observed great advantage from the emplast. stomachic. alone, when applied not only to the pit of the stomach,
but

but likewise over the left hypochondrium.

While the vomiting continues, the body ought to be kept open, in order to diminish the fulness of the vessels, which is the principal cause of the complaint. But this must be attempted by the gentlest laxatives, as every thing of a stimulating kind might endanger abortion. The lenitive electuary is among the most suitable medicines for the purpose.

I have already taken notice of the expediency of bleeding, if the vomiting should be violent; and the operation ought to be repeated, if the complaint does not yield to gentler remedies.

If, notwithstanding all the means that have been mentioned, the retching should continue so violent as to disturb her ladyship in the night, it will be necessary to give some gentle anodyne at bed.

bed-time; such as fifteen or twenty drops of laudanum, in two or three spoonfuls of mint or cinnamon water.

The next symptom which I mentioned, as usually incidental to the earlier stage of pregnancy, was longings. These involuntary desires may generally be discovered, from the pensiveness and air of dejection which for the most part accompany them. They ought always to be gratified, where it can conveniently be done, as a disappointment is sometimes known to produce abortion.

A disposition to fainting during pregnancy, is perhaps owing to some particular affection of the nervous system from that cause; but it is frequently occasioned by frights, the sight of some disagreeable object, sudden surprises, &c. When any of these emotions is the cause of the syncope, it is sometimes productive of abortion.

When

When a fainting or syncope happens in the state of pregnancy, it ought to be treated exactly in the same manner as if it supervened in another situation; such as, by the application of volatile or fetid substances to the nostrils, dipping the hands in cold water, &c. Afterwards some wine, or other suitable cordial, should be given, to revive the languid spirits.

Pregnant women are sometimes subject to great sinkings, and a depression of the spirits, though a syncope does not ensue. For relieving those complaints, as well as to prevent fainting, bleeding is highly adviseable, if the person be plethoric. In those habitual languors, it is proper to take occasionally either a dose of sal volatile oleosum, or a spoonful of such a mixture as the following.

R. Cinnamom. simp. uncias quatuor, ---spirituos. uncias duas,
sp.

sp. lavendul. comp. confect.
alkerm. ana, semunciam. M.

In some women, fainting is the consequence of great evacuations, or of a hysterical disposition; and in such cases the prevention of a syncope is not to be attempted by bleeding, but by the use of cordial remedies. I have no reason for thinking, however, that her ladyship is of that constitution.

The complaints which are most urgent to pregnant women after the end of the fourth month are, vomiting, difficulty of breathing, and cough. The vomiting, at this time, as well as the difficulty of breathing, and cough, depends on the extraordinary compression arising from the distension of the uterus. Should any of these complaints be particularly troublesome to the countess, it must be treated in the same manner as on similar occasions. If the vomiting continue obstinate after all other means have been

been used, recourse must be had to opiates, which generally abate its violence.

In case an immoderate cough, or difficulty of respiration, bleeding will be necessary, and ought to be repeated, according as the constitution will justify, and the urgency of the symptoms require. Should her ladyship be seized with either of these complaints, it will be proper that, while in bed, she lay with her head considerably raised, as an erect posture is always most favourable to respiration. In this case, mild pectorals also are to be administered; such as, sperma ceti and honey, or an infusion of liquorice juice, linseed, and tussilago.

Costiveness is another inconvenience which is usual in the advanced stage of gestation, arising from the increased pressure of the uterus on the rectum. It sometimes occasions severe colical symptoms, and may prove the means of abortion, on account of the violent compression

pression to which the uterus is subjected by the tenesmus and consequent straining. This symptom, therefore, of costiveness ought always to be prevented, or early remedied by gentle laxatives; such as the lenitive electuary, manna, magnesia, &c. But if the complaint has been long neglected, these medicines will prove insufficient for removing it; and in such cases it is often adviseable to bleed the patient in the arm, to the quantity of six or eight ounces, or even more, provided that she can bear the evacuation; lest there should exist any degree of inflammation on account of the violence and long continuance of the pressure. An emollient, lubricating glyster ought then to be administered, to facilitate the discharge of the hardened faeces.

Flooding is an accident to which women may be subject at any period of gestation, and is frequently produced by a violence of the complaints I have already

ready

ready mentioned; viz. severe retchings to vomit, excessive coughing, and much straining at stool, &c. It is always an alarming symptom, particularly in the advanced stage of pregnancy. When it happens, it is to be treated in the same way as an immoderate flux of the menses; only if it continues obstinate, and the patient's life is in danger, the delivery ought immediately to be attempted.

When, from any of the causes which have been mentioned, a pregnant woman is seized with irregular pains in the back and belly, attended with strong alternate contractions and relaxations of the abdominal muscles, and a frequent forcing down, as in real labour, an abortion is much to be apprehended. To prevent that accident, the patient should immediately be put to bed, and kept perfectly quiet. If plethoric, she ought to be blooded, and that too, repeatedly, if requisite. Astringent remedies, both internal

ternal and topical, are also to be used; and opiates are indispensable for allaying the pains; as no medicines can prove successful while the irritation continues. But besides these general rules, the method of cure must be adopted to the particular causes of the flooding, which I have already mentioned, and therefore need not repeat.

These cursory observations, under the prudent management of the apothecary, it is presumed, will afford such directions as may serve to prevent abortion, and conduct her ladyship to a happy termination of her pregnancy.

C A S E LXII.

Of bloody Urine.

S I R,

I N the account with which you have favoured me of Mr. ---- there is no mention of any symptom that can induce us to ascribe his disorder, which is that of voiding bloody urine, to a stone either in the kidneys or bladder. His complaint is accompanied with no pain, or purulent discharge, and he never has any difficulty in making water. I am therefore of opinion, that his disorder is owing to a relaxation of the renal vessels, and perhaps a too dissolved state of the blood. The indications of cure, accordingly, will be to remedy these two defects. But as the gentleman is of a plethoric constitution, it is proper to begin with bleeding; and I doubt not but the complaint may be somewhat alleviated, at least for a time, by that operation. The day

day after being blooded, let him take a dose of rhubarb in the morning and an opiate at night; and let them be repeated once or twice. As to the opiate, it may be given any night when he is restless.

When these things have been premised, I would advise that recourse be had to the Peruvian bark, which may be taken in any form that is most agreeable to the patient, though the way of giving it in substance is certainly the most efficacious. He may take half a drachm or two scruples of it twice or even thrice a day.

For answering the other indication of cure, which was that of giving a thicker consistence to the blood, balsamic diet, of sago, gellies, barley broth, and the like, will be beneficial. He may also take frequently a dish of marshmallow-tea, or a draught of barley water, thickened by the addition of gum arabic. A glass of
 S 2 claret

claret will be of service in his case, but it is proper that he abstain from strong malt liquors.

I have once or twice known this disorder prove invincibly obstinate in old people. Even in those who are young it is extremely dangerous, when the evacuation of blood is great, or continues long; as a dropsy or consumption is often the consequence of it. But the gentleman who is now our patient, being apparently of a good constitution, and sensible of no diminution of his strength by the disorder, I am hopeful that the course which has been prescribed will effectually perform a cure.

I remain, &c.

The gentleman used the bark, and a mucilaginous diet, as had been directed; and in three weeks or a month his complaint entirely disappeared.

C A S E

C A S E LXIII.

Of the Chorea sancti Viti.

S I R,

FROM the description of the case of the young girl, the clergyman's daughter, it is evident that her disorder is what is termed the chorea sancti Viti; a disease extremely rare, and which I have seen only once in my whole practice. The characteristic symptoms of it are a lameness of one of the legs, with a convulsive motion of the arm of the same side; both which are similarly affected in this girl.

However much the muscles of voluntary motion are affected in this disorder, I have never heard of an instance where it proved difficult to cure. The method to be pursued in the treatment of it is, to begin by bleeding and purging; the latter of which may be repeated two or

three times, as likewise may the former, if there is any fulness of the pulse. After these evacuations, it will be proper to have recourse to strengthening remedies. I would advise the following for the purpose.

R. Cort. Peruv. pulv. uncias duas,
rad. serpentar. Virgin. drach-
mas duas. Infunde per quatuor
vel sex dies in vin. Lisbon. lib,
duas, & colaturæ adde, vin.
chalybeat, uncias octo.

Let her take three or four spoonfuls of this tincture twice a day; and it would be very proper that she join with it, or take as often in a glass of wine separately, fifteen or twenty of the following drops.

R. Tinctur. fuligin. semunciam,
castor. succin. ana, drachm.
duas. M.

When

When the quantity above prescribed of the tincture has been taken, it would be proper that she make use of the cold bath once a day, for some time.

It has been found of service to apply cupping glasses, without scarification, every other day, to the muscles affected with the convulsion. I have no doubt but the girl will be entirely relieved from her complaint by the use of these means.

And am, &c.



C A S E LXIV.

Of a Gutta serena.

S I R,

THE natural and healthy appearance of the gentleman's eyes of whom you write me, leaves no room to question, that the disorder which unfortunately affects them is a real gutta serena. The vigour of his sight has been diminishing, it seems, for some time; and I much fear whether our best endeavours can prove effectual for preventing the total deprivation of that valuable blessing of life. What affords much ground for such an apprehension is, that the gentleman is pretty far advanced in years, is of a weakly and cachectic habit of body, and about two years ago had a stroke of the palsy in his left side.

All these circumstances considered, I cannot venture to prescribe blood-letting,

ting, which, in an opposite condition, would have been adviseable. Purging is therefore the only evacuation I would recommend, and it ought to be frequently repeated. Rhubarb, or, the infusion of senna, are most suitable for the purpose. After taking one dose of either of these to cleanse the Primæ Viæ, it would be proper that he take frequently at night some grains of calomel, and repeat the purgative occasionally; such as once in the three or four days. The quantity of calomel may be eight or ten grains, to be given two or three nights successively preceding the purge.

If the calomel should operate by stool, I would join with it, half a drachm or two scruples of theriac, or the confect. Fracastor. f. m. or give with it some drops of laudanum; but if the looseness should still continue, and gripings ensue, it will be proper to suspend the use of the calomel, till the diarrhæa either ceases spontaneously, or be carried off by a purge.

This

This process may be continued for a month or six weeks, if found necessary; but on the intermediate days of the evacuation, and afterwards, I would advise the use of the following remedies.

R. Milleped. viv. sacchar. alb. ana uncias duas. Contunde simul, & fiat expressio cum vin. alb. aq. foenicul. uniuscujusque lib. una, tinct. succin. uncia una.

Four or five table spoonfuls of this mixture is to be taken every morning for a considerable time.

When other remedies have failed, a salivation has been recommended for this disorder; but, considering the constitution of the patient, I do not think that expedient very adviseable in the present case; and I would have the gentleman content

content himself with a partial preservation of sight, if even that can be secured, rather than by salivation attempt a radical cure; the issue of which would still be uncertain, and the means used for obtaining it, increase his natural debility.

I am, &c.



CASE

C A S E LXV.

Of a Lientery.

S I R,

THE case of the gentleman who has long been troubled with a diarrhæa, is now plainly changed into the lientery; as appears from the aliments, which are discharged in quite a crude state. The worst symptoms frequently attending this disorder, I find are not yet supervened; such as the tympany and jaundice; but from the extreme weakness of the patient's bowels, there is very little security against the accession of them.

The stomach and intestines appear to be equally affected in this case; not only from the food undergoing no alteration in its passage through the digestive organs, but from the celerity with which it is discharged so soon after eating.

I have

I have already signified my opinion respecting the danger of the gentleman's situation, on account of the great debility of his bowels in particular, and his strength being so much reduced by the long continuance of the preceding disease. Yet I must confess, though perhaps the acknowledgement will appear somewhat singular, that in my opinion there is a greater chance of his recovery from this disorder, under the symptoms of a total indigestion of the food, than if the aliments had been converted into chyle before they were discharged. Such a declaration may seem extraordinary, when it is considered, that in the latter case the action of the stomach is still exerted in some degree, while in the former it is almost totally ceased; and certainly, were the point to be determined entirely by a regard to these circumstances, the falsehood of my proposition would be unquestionable. But I do not
form

form my opinion of the case from the state of the natural function of the stomach, so much as from the circumstance to which the discharge of the chyle is frequently owing in the Cæliaca passio, or lesser degree of the lientery. The circumstance to which I allude is, obstruction of the lacteals, which I look upon as a disorder still more invincible than a weakness of the alimentary canal.

Though the patient therefore appears not to be in the most desperate state of the disease, his situation nevertheless is extremely dangerous, as I before observed. For his appetite is almost entirely gone, and his thirst is considerable.

Bleeding is generally recommended in the beginning of this disorder, where the patient is plethoric, or a feverish disposition attends. But I am not satisfied as to the propriety of that evacuation in the case of this

this gentleman. For though there be reason to suspect some degree of fever, from the thirst of which he complains, (as you have not mentioned the state of his pulse, I can judge only by that symptom) yet the tedious diarrhæa he has sustained, added to the subsequent disease, must undoubtedly have so far diminished a plethoric habit of body, if such was his case, as to render any artificial evacuation now unnecessary, if not extremely prejudicial. I am therefore of opinion, that venæsection is not adviseable in this case.

As both vomiting and purging have been so frequently repeated for the gentleman's diarrhæa, I am little inclined also for prosecuting these evacuations any farther; at least I think it will be sufficient to give one gentle dose of ipocacuana and rhubarb, and immediately proceed to the use of astringents. In this case, it seems more adviseable to prescribe these in a liquid than a solid form;

form; as in such a state they will be more readily taken into the vascular system, and their virtues communicated to the debilitated parts, in the course of the circulation. I would recommend the following tincture for the purpose.

R. Cort. Peruvian. pulverisat.
 uncias duas, aurantior. unciam
 unam, rad. serpentar. Virgin.
 semunciam. Infunde per qua-
 tuor dies in vin. Lisbon. lib.
 duobus, & colaturæ adde aq.
 cinnamom. spirituos. semili-
 bram, sp. lavendul. comp.
 uncias duas.

I would propose that the gentleman take two or three spoonfuls of this tincture every four or five hours; for where the stomach and bowels are so weak and irritable, it is better to give a small quantity often, than to hazard the immediate discharge of the medicine, by stimulating their fibres too much.

But

But nothing will contribute more to recover the strength of the bowels than riding on horseback, which the gentleman ought diligently to use, as often as the diarrhæa permits.

In the mean time, the patient must be supported by a warm, subastringent diet, moderately solid. Sago, jellies, and rice-gruel, may very properly constitute a part of his food. Taking sometimes a dish of mulled claret will also be serviceable; and, for his drink, he ought to use water in which a bit of cinnamon has been boiled, with wine, a toast and nutmeg. Should the aliments continue to be discharged, there would be a necessity for endeavouring to support him by nourishing injections. I sincerely wish success to the means prescribed,

And am, &c.

T

By

By the use of the astringent medicines and régime, the gentleman's disorder gradually abated; and by habitually riding on horseback for many months after, his constitution was greatly improved.

CASE LXVI.

Of a Hætic Fever, accompanied with other symptoms.

S I R,

THE gentleman, of whom you write me, has undoubtedly all the symptoms of a hætic fever; and from some of those which you mention, I think it highly probable that the source of his disorder is either in the omentum or mesentery. For he is sensible of a weight, tension, and dull pain about these parts; and there is sometimes the appearance of a purulent discharge in his urine, and sometimes

times in his stools. I am therefore fully of opinion, that an abscess is formed in one or other of the parts abovementioned, which is the origin and support of the hectic fever. Whether the seat of the ulcer be the omentum or mesentery, can be judged of only by the patient's feeling, which is liable to deception. If it be in the latter of these viscera, the symptoms of its existence, viz. the tension, weight, and obscure pain, will seem more deeply seated than if they were inherent in the former. Whichever of the two is affected, the prognostic will be nearly the same. For tho' the omentum be far less essential to the animal œconomy than the mesentery, yet it scarce can be totally consumed, especially in a person so fat as the patient is represented to be, without supporting a hectic fever so long as to become unalterably confirmed: not to mention the danger of the intestines also being consumed by their contact with the ulcerated part.

It is difficult to say what can be prescribed for this gentleman with any prospect of advantage. As the indication of cure, however, is to cleanse and heal the ulcer, if possible, we can have no other resource than in the assistance of vulnerary medicines. I would recommend a free use of the following decoction, as what promises the greatest benefit.

R. Herb. hederæ ter. fol. plantagin. ana drachmas tres; coque in aq. fontan. lib. iii. ad lib. ij. addens sub finem coctionis, succi glycyrrhizæ drachmas duas, & cola.

With respect to the cure of the fever, which in this case is symptomatic, it is my opinion that our dependance must be placed entirely on a milk diet. If the pulse, however, should at any time be full

full or hard, or there were signs of fresh inflammations beginning in the belly, bleeding would be necessary, and ought to be repeated as the symptoms required. But of the expediency or necessity of that operation, you only, who have the opportunity of visiting the patient, are the proper judge; and it gives me pleasure to think, that the management of him is entrusted to one who is so capable of discharging the duties of his profession with applause to himself, and benefit to those under his care.

I am, &c.

This patient died in about a month after. His belly was opened, to examine the state of the viscera, when a great part of the mesentery, which had been the seat of the ulcer, was found to be consumed.

C A S E LXVII.

Of a Palpitation of the Heart.

Dear S I R,

THE palpitation of the heart, with which the young woman, whose case you have sent me, is afflicted, is really one of those disorders that, when not purely symptomatic, has always baffled my utmost efforts. Nor is this much to be wondered at, when we consider, that it is a complaint which may arise from various causes, that lye entirely beyond our power to correct. A thorax too narrow, callosities in the aorta, a dropfy of the pericardium, or a polypus in the heart itself, are known to produce it. In this young woman, the disorder does not appear to arise from any fault in the formation of the chest. If there be therefore any fixed cause for it, I am afraid that it is of such a nature as is totally incurable. If that be really
the

the case, I know not what more can be done, than to palliate the complaint by occasional bleeding, and enjoining a spare, cooling diet, and abstinence from violent exercise.

You have been very minute and accurate in endeavouring to ascertain whether or not the complaint proceeded from a hysterical source; and I wish you had found reason to be satisfied of the affirmative in that enquiry. For then we might have entertained greater hope of radically curing, or at least greatly palliating the complaint. I readily agree with you in opinion, that as she appears to be subject to no other hysterical symptom whatever, we scarcely can suppose the palpitation to be owing to such a cause. Besides, I am inclined to imagine, from the gradual advancement of the palpitation, that it derives its origin from some fixed cause, which has for some time been increasing in the body. If that, therefore, be actually the case,

the complaint appears to me to be irremediable. I should still, however, think it were proper, to try the effect of anti-hysterical medicines; as there is at least a possibility of its proceeding from that cause, and as it is the only supposition upon which there is any ground to expect that our assistance should prove serviceable.

I beg you will present my compliments to all the good family at--- and believe me to be, &c.



CASE

CASE LVIII.

Of a Diabetes.

S I R,

I Entirely accede to your diagnostic respecting the case of our friend Dr. ----- whose disorder evidently is the genuin diabetes; and in a person of his years, and relaxed constitution, I am very apprehensive of the consequence. Besides his making urine in an immoderate quantity, and having a great thirst, which are the principal characteristics of a diabetes, the disease it seems is so far advanced, that he has an œdematous swelling of the loins and feet; symptoms that afford additional proof of a great debility of the solids. As to the quick and weak pulse, these signs are never absent in this distemper, being the concomitants of a hectic fever, which generally accompanies it.

The

The disease has certainly advanced very rapidly; for when I saw him in town on his return from Bath, not two months ago, he made no mention of any such complaint, and was at that time in a pretty good habit of body, though I could perceive that he had not quite recovered the lowness of spirits to which he is unfortunately become too subject. The immoderate discharge of urine, however, with which he is now seized, is not at all of that kind which attends a hypochondriac complaint. For in the latter, the evacuation is irregular, as proceeding from temporary spasmodic constrictions, and is not accompanied with any fever.

However obscure, in this case, the procatactic cause of the disorder may be, the nature of the disease affords sufficient proof of the indications which are to be pursued in the method of cure. Unquestionably these are, to correct the relaxation

relaxation of the renal glands, and to give a more balsamic consistence to the attenuated serum of the blood, which is secreted too copiously.

In the first place, it is proper that we pay due attention to his regimen; for it is always of the greatest consequence, where the crasis of the blood is vitiated, that such a diet be made use of as best tends to alter the morbid disposition of the fluids; and without a right regulation of the aliments, which are taken in a quantity greatly superior to that of medicines, the salutary effects of the latter must be perpetually counteracted. He ought therefore to use a solid rather than liquid diet, which should consist of such meats as, though easy of digestion, afford a gelatinous chyle. Gellies, fago, and shell-fish, are particularly well adopted to his situation; and in respect to drink, the most suitable is Bristol, lime-water, the Decoctum Album, or Tinctura Rosarum. I think that the first chiefly,

chiefly, and now and then eight or ten spoonfuls of the last, would be preferable to the other two.

He ought to use moderate exercise daily; and it will be of advantage that he wear a napkin or broad girt, drawn pretty tight round his loins.

I know not whether the air of the place where he resides be not of too humid a nature. If that is the case, which is a point that you can well determine, it would certainly be of advantage that he remove to a drier situation. For, in disorders arising from relaxed solids, the influence of the atmosphere, whether good or bad, is particularly efficacious.

With respect to the medicines proper for him, these may be comprised within very narrow compass. The alum whey is a remedy from which I have often observed good effects, and it will be advisable that he take a dish of it twice or thrice

thrice a day. The chief dependence, however, in my opinion, is to be placed in the Peruvian bark, of which I would have him take two scruples thrice a day, in any form which is most agreeable.

If he uses a gelatinous diet, it may supply the place of incrassating medicines; otherwise a drachm of gum arabic may be dissolved in a quart of whatever he drinks.

Pray assure the good Doctor of my best wishes and services.

And believe that I always am, &c.

CASE

CASE LXIX.

Of the Hæmorrhoids.

S I R,

I AM favoured with your request respecting Mr. ----- who is much troubled with the hæmorrhoids, and is desirous of being informed whether or not they may be repelled with safety; as some years ago he was seized with a vertigo, which was imputed by the physician to such an attempt.

As the gentleman is of a plethoric habit of body, I am clearly of opinion, that to repel the hæmorrhoids without premising venæsection, might prove of very dangerous consequence; because, in that case, the redundancy of blood would oppress the system, and might occasion the rupture of a vessel in some of the principal and vital organs of the body. The hæmorrhoids in this gentleman,

man, depending not on a depauperated state of the blood, which is frequently the cause of them, but on the opposite constitution, he will not only receive benefit from the evacuation of the superabundant fluids, by bleeding, but in fact the operation will prove the radical cure of the complaint; I mean, that it will totally suspend the return of the hæmorrhoids till a plethora is again produced.

I would advise that he be blooded to the quantity of about ten ounces; after which as the hæmorrhoids are external, if the veins be much distended, it will be proper to apply one or two leeches to the part. This will probably remove the complaint, or if it should not entirely yield, let the gentleman take about the third part of an ounce of the following electuary, either at night or morning for a few days.

R. Electuar. lenitiv. uncias duas,
 flor. sulphur. unciam unam,
 fyr.

betatequifyr. rofar. pallid. q. f. f. elec-
 tuarium. When the pain of the hæmorrhoids is
 very troublesome, it is proper to foment
 the part with a warm fomentation of the
 emollient herbs, to which a small por-
 tion of camphorated spirits is added;
 and after using this, an anodyne lini-
 ment may be applied; such as the un-
 guent. alth. mixed with a fourth part of
 laudanum. But where the part is very
 much pained, the fitting over the vapour
 of the discutient decoction, is prefer-
 able to fomenting.

The same applications, the leeches
 excepted, are also proper in the internal
 hæmorrhoids; only that the fomentation
 must be introduced by injection, and
 the liniment conveyed by means of a
 doffil.

But to be more particular in regard to
 the expediency of repulsion. Where
 the

the hæmorrhoids are not preceded by any disease, and do not appear to be critical, I make no scruple of applying repelling ointments to the part, whether internally or externally seated; after the general plethora is diminished, where that exists, and the pain and distention of the hæmorrhoidal veins have been abated by leeches or topical discutients.

The gentleman ought at present to use a thin and spare diet, to abstain from spirituous liquors, and avoid much exercise, particularly riding on horseback.

I am, &c.



U

CASE

C A S E LXX.

Of an Optbalmia.

S I R,

AS the opthalmia, which you write me, has proved so obstinate against the best antiphlogystic process of cure that could be prescribed, there is the greatest reason to suspect, that it is either of the scrophulous or venereal kind. But which of the two, it is impossible to determine with any degree of certainty, without knowing the constitution of the gentleman, and being informed by himself of certain particulars which are necessary to elucidate the point. I shall therefore briefly give you my opinion respecting the means to be used for his recovery, on the supposition of its arising from one or the other of the causes I have mentioned.

If

If the disorder appears to be of a scrophulous nature, it will be proper to put the patient upon a course of calomel; of which he may take eight or ten grains at bed-time, for two or three nights successively, and afterwards purge it off with senna or rhubarb. Should the complaint not soon yield, however, to this course, it would be proper to try the effect of some other mercurial preparation, lest the gentleman should be too much exhausted by the frequent repetition of the purgatives. In that case, I would recommend the use of the *æthiops antimonialis*, which is an excellent remedy in all viscidities of the blood. A scruple or more of it may be taken twice a day. My advice will be completely fulfilled, if he also make use of the Peruvian bark, which has been found to be almost specific in this disorder. I think it may very properly be taken along with the *æthiops*, in the quantity of half a drachm or two scruples.

If there should be found reason for supposing the complaint to be of a venereal origin, a mercurial course would also be adviseable, with the addition of *mercurius dulcis* to the collyriums.

I have confined myself to prescribing officinal remedies only; but if the ophthalmia is of the scrophulous kind, and should obstinately resist the use of the medicines which I have already advised, it would be extremely proper that the gentleman have recourse to the chalybeate purging spa waters. The cure, I doubt not, will prove tedious, but there is ground to hope that it will be accomplished. In the mean time,

I am, &c.

C A S E

C A S E LXXI.

Of Deafness.

S I R,

I A M not at all surprized that you are at a loss to determine the precise method of cure which ought to be adopted for recovering Mrs. ---- from her deafness. There are few disorders of which the causes are both more various and imperceptible than those which produce this malady; and till the particular cause be ascertained, we never can prescribe with any probability of success.

As the lady is but little turned of fifty, you very justly conclude, that the disorder is not to be ascribed to old age, of which deafness is often a concomitant infirmity. By the use of deterging injections, you have likewise satisfied yourself that it is not occasioned by wax obstructing the auditory passage. We must

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therefore

therefore admit the cause of it to be different from either of these two, and in forming our diagnostic have recourse to the history and constitution of the patient, so far as is requisite for our purpose.

With respect to her history, her menses disappeared about four years ago; from which time to the present, the only complaint of any consequence that has seized her is the deafness, which did not supervene till more than three years after the cessation of her natural discharge, and therefore cannot be imputed to that cause. Neither has any accident happened which we might suppose to have been productive of the disorder; such as loud noises, concussions, &c.

The sphere in which our diagnostic is to be found is now reduced to a narrower compass, and, in order to prosecute our enquiry, we must consider the lady's constitution.

She

She is, it seems, of a plethoric habit of body, and somewhat a catarrhous disposition ; as you conclude from her being sometimes subject to slight and transient attacks of the tooth-ach, a stoppage in the glands of the nose, and sometimes a great discharge from them.

From the knowledge of these circumstances, I think we may now take upon us to determine the nature of the complaint, and to maintain the opinion of its proceeding originally from a catarrh.

But now that I recollect my omission, I beg pardon for not having particularly mentioned the cause to which you are inclined to impute the lady's complaint ; which I think is, a relaxation of the tympanum from the moist air of the marshy situation in which she lives. That such a relaxation is frequently the cause of deafness, there is not the smallest doubt ; but I imagine, that in the

present case, the moisture of the air is not otherwise necessary to the disorder, than as it may give rise to the catarrh. For were the deafness really owing to such a relaxation as has been mentioned, is it not highly probable that both ears would have been affected at the same time? but it appears, that the lady retained the sense of hearing in her right ear, for almost two months after the left was affected. I make no doubt, therefore, but that you will now concur with me in the opinion I have intimated, and accordingly subscribe to the propriety of treating it as a catarrhous complaint.

I have often known, however, that a diagnostic perfectly well founded, has been discredited by the obstinacy of the disease, or the natural tendency of the patient's constitution towards it; and as Mrs. ---- is of a catarrhous disposition, it might perhaps be too bold to affirm the probability of entirely overcoming her disorder. But if we cannot perform

form a radical cure, I am hopeful that we shall at least be able to afford some alleviation of the complaint.

I look upon bleeding as not eligible in general in constitutions disposed to catarrhus fluxions: nevertheless when the person is plethoric, a moderate evacuation of blood undoubtedly renders the circulation through the serous vessels more free; and in that view proves of advantage in disorders, in which it would not be indicated on any other principle. I think it will not be improper, therefore, that the lady be bled in a moderate quantity.

After bleeding, she may take a vomit of ipocacuanha, in order to unload the glands about the throat, and thereby diminish the redundancy of serous humours.

Purging, however, is still more strongly indicated, and ought to be repeated for
two

two or three times. Rhubarb, or an infusion of senna, will answer the purpose. But it seems to me highly adviseable, that some grains of calomel be either taken with the physic, or given antecedently to it. I would not propose to give it above once, or twice at most, before it is purged off, as its tendency is to loosen the crasis of the blood, and, for the most part, to occasion a flow of the humours towards the head. A few doses, however, cannot be productive of much inconvenience in these respects, and may have some effect in removing the obstructions which probably are the cause of the complaint.

But nothing, in my opinion, will prove so successful for relieving the disorder, as blisters, which make a great revulsion of the humours from the parts near to which they are applied. One ought immediately to be laid behind each ear; and I think also to the nape of the neck. If the lady should not
soon

soon find the disorder mitigated by them, I would propose that they be kept open for some time; as there is reason to hope that the discharge which they occasion, will be attended with the most beneficial effects.

According to the idea I have formed of the complaint, little advantage can be expected from any thing introduced into the cavity of the ears. I think, however, that after the evacuations abovementioned have been made, it would be proper to instill into them, occasionally, a drop or two of some such mixture as the following, in order gently to stimulate the parts that are affected with the obstruction, and enable them to recover their former tone.

R. Sp. lavendul. comp. aq. Hungar. ana semi-drachmam. M.

I am

I am very hopeful that by the use of these means, the lady will in a short time be relieved from her discouraging complaint; and that we shall have the pleasure of finding our opinion of the cause of the disease confirmed by the success of the method of cure.

I am, &c.

The evacuations above prescribed were duly made, and the blisters kept open near a fortnight, when the lady perfectly recovered the sense of hearing in one of her ears, and very soon after in the other.

C A S E

CASE LXXII.

Of a Palsy of the Tongue.

S I R,

AS the gentleman who has been seized with a total palsy of the tongue, is plethoric and in the vigor of life, you certainly judg'd right in bleeding him immediately, and perhaps you may find it adviseable to repeat the operation; I mean upon the supposition that his pulse continues full. For in such a situation, bleeding is not only necessary for the cure of the present disease, but for preventing a more general palsy or an apoplexy.

I approve likewise of the purgative glyster which was afterwards injected, and which also may require to be repeated; though after the first injection I think purges taken by the mouth are preferable.

preferable. It is probable, that the impediment of deglutition attending this complaint, has been the cause that induced you to postpone not only the use of purgatives, but also of a vomit, which properly should precede them. I think it will be necessary, however, that means be used to convey these medicines into his stomach, as well as to assist the deglutition of his aliments.

If these general evacuations do not immediately produce good effect, I would advise the applying a large blister to the nape of the neck.

Let him frequently hold in his mouth some of the following mixture, as a gargle; of which it will also be proper that he take three or four spoonfuls thrice a day.

R. Sem. sinap. cont. unciam
unam, vin. alb. lib. unam.
Infunde

Infunde frigide, & colaturæ
adde sp. lavendul. comp. un-
cias duas.

Perhaps however before this time the cure is completed; for I have scarce ever known a palsy of the tongue that was not soon removed, where the patient was not old, and in a very bad habit of body. Indeed the palsy of this gentleman is uncommonly violent; as being not only accompanied with a deprivation of speech, but an absolute incapacity of conveying the food into the æsophagus. But notwithstanding that circumstance, I entertain great hopes of his speedy recovery; which I think will be accomplished by the means here prescribed. Before I conclude, let me again recommend the repetition of the bleeding, if the signs of a plethora still remain.

I am, &c.

The

The palsy of this gentleman greatly abated on being blooded the second time; and by the use of the tincture for a day or two, he entirely recovered. But a few months after, he died suddenly in the night, of an apoplectic fit, as was supposed.

CASE

C A S E LXXIII.

Of a Vertigo.

S I R,

A S there is ground to imagine from Mr. -----'s constitution, and the total absence of every hypochondriac symptom, that the vertigo with which he is troubled, is of the idiopathic kind, I by no means think chalybeate medicines suitable in his case; nay, I am of opinion, that the use of them might prove extremely dangerous. For in plethoric habits of body, such as his is represented to be, I have seen the worst effects produced by chalybeates, whether taken in the form of Spa waters, or any artificial preparation,

With respect to the probable issue of the disease, I am sorry to be of opinion, that there is much danger of its terminating either in an apoplexy or epilepsy,

but particularly the former. To prevent such a consequence, it is requisite that he use a spare diet; though, as he has been accustomed to high living, I would not entirely restrain him from flesh and wine, taken in moderation. It will also be proper, that, when in bed, he lay with his head pretty much raised, to prevent too great a repletion of the brain.

The first step in the cure is undoubtedly bleeding; of which the quantity must be determined by the fulness of the pulse, and the violence of the disease. For it is chiefly by the free use of that evacuation, that we are to endeavour to prevent the vertigo from being changed into either of the two disorders above mentioned. I look upon the jugular vein as the most proper for the operation in this case.

After bleeding, let a vomit be given, then apply a blister to the neck. But if
the

the complaint is not removed soon after the application of the vesicatory, it will be proper to continue the discharge for some time. When the disorder has become chronical, I have observed great benefit from an issue between the shoulders.

Along with these evacuations I would also advise the use of lenient purgatives, such as senna or rhubarb, which may be repeated every two or three days for a little time.

During the intervals of the last mentioned evacuation, it will be proper that the gentleman make use of cephalic remedies; from which I am hopeful he will experience much advantage. I would recommend the following electuary and julep for the purpose.

R. Conserv. flavid. aurant. rad.
 valerian. fylv. pulv. cinnabar.
 antimon. ana semunciam, fyr.
 aurant.,

aurant. q. f. f. electuarium.
Capiat æger quantitatem n. m.
ter in die, superbibendo julepii
sequentis cochlear. quatuor.

R. Aq. rutæ uncias sex, præon.
comp. uncias duas, sp. laven-
dul. comp. unciam unam, syr.
caryophyl. drachmas sex. M.

I expect that by these means the
gentleman will soon recover of his com-
plaint. But it will be proper that for
some time he observe the regimen which
has been prescribed; and particularly,
that he guard against a repletion of the
head.

I am, &c.

17 OC 64

THE END.

Weak Stomach

Cortex peruv -

craspe pulv. aurantur

Vini Lisbon -

infunde set dies. addu.

Vini chalybeate

aa 3

o. ij

3 iij

commence coch. i bis die - crescent
ad ii vel iij

Tinct. Sacra general aperient

Hyssopus Spharw

Morchi gr

Ruta ext